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Russia denies sending arms to Serbia

MOSCOW (R) — Russia Monday denied a British newspaper report that it was supplying sophisticated weapons to Serb forces in Yugoslavia despite a U.N. arms embargo. The Observer newspaper said Sunday the Bosnia and Croatia under secret deals with Russia. "This newspaper report does not correspond to reality," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "It is obvious disinformation. We regret that such nonsense could appear on the pages of such a newspaper as the Observer." The Observer said Russian generals concluded the agreements on arms supplies with Serbian leaders at talks in Romania and Bulgaria, ending on Jan. 22 at a time when Serbia feared the United States might launch strikes against Serb targets. Bulgaria's army Chief of Staff General Lyuben Petrov denied the report of state television on Sunday. "We have no such information about anything like that," he said. Miroslav Damnov, from the Bulgarian parliamentary commission for national security, added that "Sofia and Bucharest could not be the best places for secret negotiations, because they could be eavesdropped."

Egypt bars headline preachers

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Religious Affairs Minister Mohammad Mahjoub said scholars preaching militant thoughts have been banished from mosques as part of a government campaign to fight a rising fundamentalist influence. Mr. Mahjoub told Reuters in an interview that scholars preaching extremist ideas were no more than some dozens. "Those have been removed because they carried extremist ideas which they tried to enforce on our youths," he added. He said the government, realising that Muslim militants were using mosques to recruit followers and promote the establishment of an Islamic caliphate, had decided since November to bring all mosques and prayer rooms under its direct control. About 50 per cent of Egypt's 120,000 mosques and prayer rooms were now government-controlled and the takeover of the rest would end in 1995. He said lack of control over the establishment of religious centres had made it easy for militants to infiltrate them. "Our mosques became platforms for the extremists to spread their perverted and terrorist thoughts by preaching the Islamic call through using force, attacking non-Muslims and stirring trouble with the aim of destabilising Egypt," Mr. Mahjoub said. (See related story on page 2)

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Senior Iraqi envoy meets Ben Ali

TUNIS (R) — Barzan Ibrahim Al Tikriti, political adviser to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, met Tunisia's President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali Monday. Mr. Tikriti told reporters he carried a message from President Saddam to the Tunisian president. He did not go into details. President Saddam appointed Mr. Tikriti, his half brother, as political advisor last week with the rank and salary of a cabinet minister. As Iraq's envoy to the U.N. mission in Geneva since 1989, he has led behind-the-scenes efforts to rebuild Iraq's diplomatic links with other Arab countries and erode the isolation imposed on Baghdad for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Islamic chieftain arrested in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — A commander of the armed Islamic extremists who have wrought havoc in Algeria for the past year has been arrested, police confirmed Monday. Ikhlef Cherati was arrested Friday in the suburb of Al Harach, where he directed extremist operations in a conflict that has killed some 600 people, including 250 soldiers and police officers. The arrest marks a significant blow against Muslim fundamentalists who reject last year's military coup that blocked the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) party from legally winning power in parliamentary elections.

Riina denies being mafia superboss

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Salvatore "Totò" Riina Monday appeared in court for the first time since his arrest six weeks ago and denied he had been the mafia's superboss. Mr. Riina, accused of ordering hundreds of killings, told a court he was an innocent "lightning rod" for Italy's many problems and had been falsely accused by so-called "repentant" mafiosi. The 62-year-old, whose arrest ended nearly a quarter of a century of life on the run, told the court was "just a worker" and a "poor farmer." Testifying for about an hour under heavy security in a courtroom in Palermo's Ucciardone Prison, Mr. Riina said he had no reason to order the killings of politicians.

Russia moves to ratify START II

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian parliamentary leadership sent the START II nuclear arms treaty to key committees for consideration Monday, a necessary first step in ratification of the pact by the full parliament. The START II treaty, signed by former U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in January, commits the two sides to reducing their total number of strategic nuclear warheads to 3,000 to 3,500 units each by 2003. Hardliners in parliament and the armed forces, unhappy about the cuts which will bite deep into Russia's force of land-based missiles, have served notice they will oppose the government in its drive for ratification. ITAR-TASS news agency said the parliamentary praxis did not discuss the treaty Monday before sending it to the Committee for Defence and Security and the Committee for International and External Economic Links. The treaty requires a simple majority of votes in the conservative-dominated Supreme Soviet (standing parliament) to be ratified.

Demjanjuk begins 3-day hunger strike

TEL AVIV (AP) — John Demjanjuk, convicted in Israel as the Nazi camp guard "Ivan the Terrible," started a three-day fast Monday to protest a delay in the ruling on his appeal, his lawyer said. "Nine months have passed, nothing has happened," attorney Yoram Sheftel said of the supreme court deliberations. "Any jury in the Western world would come to its conclusions within one hour," Mr. Sheftel said the three day fast, marking seven years in detention for Demjanjuk, was a "warning strike" during which he would only drink water. He did not say under what circumstances further strikes would take place.

Israel seals off Gaza after Palestinian kills 2, stabs 9 in Tel Aviv

Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for attack

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel will close off the occupied Gaza Strip indefinitely, the army announced Monday after a Gaza Palestinian stabbed to death two Israelis and wounded nine others in the heart of Tel Aviv. The general closure will take effect at 3:00 a.m. (1:00 GMT) and will prevent some 35,000 day labourers from reaching their jobs in Israel, the army said. It added the closure was to examine entry permits and prevent violence between Arabs and Jews. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin threatened to retaliate for the attack by a 19-year-old Arab with "measures that will be painful" for other residents of the occupied Gaza Strip but told Israelis only peace talks could provide a permanent solution. Ichilov hospital said two men died — a 27-year-old Russian immigrant and a 28-year-old owner of a hair salon — and nine other Israelis were wounded. The only woman attacked was in critical condition. Two men were in serious condition. "According to the details we have, he acted alone when he planned to attack Jews as a result of disappointment that he had not found work," Yaacov Raz, deputy police chief of Tel Aviv, told

Israel Radio. The attack occurred in south Tel Aviv around 7:40 a.m. (0540 GMT) in a busy blue-collar neighbourhood of houses and shops a block from the city's main bus station. The man ran down three streets stabbing indiscriminately before bystanders caught and severely beat him, Palestinian sources identified him as Ziyad Salim Simi, 19, from Gaza City. An Islamic Jihad leader said in Damascus that Simi had acted on its behalf in the stabbings in response to Israel's expulsion to South Lebanon of 415 Palestinians. But Islamic Jihad activists in the Gaza Strip said while Simi was an active member of their group, he acted alone. Simi had never been arrested, they said, but his brother had served a 14-month prison term for membership in Islamic Jihad. "He had no orders to kill Israelis," said an Islamic Jihad activist, who spoke on condition he would not be named. Israelis on both sides of the political spectrum said the attack showed the need to stop Gaza workers from entering Israel. Up to 30,000 cross into Israel daily. Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio

that closing off the occupied territories was "something that obviously could be done." But he ruled out a permanent ban on Gazans working in Israel, which would increase poverty that already fuels unrest. Mr. Rabin also said it seemed the attacker acted alone and did not belong to a "terrorist" organisation. "Therefore we will take steps, bring some sort of isolation for a certain amount of time," said Mr. Rabin. "But in the end, without coming to a political solution, the reality of mixing (Palestinians) ... in the area of Israel has within it the potential that a murderous madman like this will rise up," Mr. Rabin said. "We must continue with the (peace) process, we must come to a political solution and until then all possible measures must be taken to reduce meaningfully murderous terrorist attacks." Energy Minister Amnon Rubinstein, from the left-wing Meretz Party said it was time for Israel to weigh both getting out of Gaza and barring Gazan Arabs from entering Israel. "I think this murder which has

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Shelling and rocket attacks continue in S. Lebanon

TYRE (Agencies) — Israel's militia allies shelled two South Lebanon villages Monday, wounding a civilian after resistance forces injured a militiaman, security sources said. They said one civilian was wounded and some 15 homes were heavily damaged in Qabrika and Majdel Selm villages in the retaliatory shelling by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. An estimated 70 artillery shells hit the villages and surrounding areas where guerrillas are active just outside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south. A communiqué from Hizbollah said Monday's attacks launched at least five mortar shells at an outpost of the SLA in Tallousse in the central sector of the "security zone."

The communiqué said the outpost was burned down and all its occupants were killed. "Majdal Selm and Qabrika are policed by the Ghananian battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which was deployed in South Lebanon in 1978 after Israel's first incursion into Lebanon. Parts of the U.N.-policed zone overlap with Israeli-held territory. The bombardment started after Hizbollah guerrillas hit an SLA position at Tallousse on the edge of the zone with anti-tank rockets and missiles and machinegunfire. At least one SLA militiaman was wounded, the sources said. The assault was launched several hours after about 300 residents of the village of Libbaya buried a trader killed Sunday when an Israeli helicopter fired a rocket into his van.

A passenger in the van was wounded in the helicopter raid shortly after a clash between guerrillas and Israeli forces. Guerrillas outside the "security zone" fired more than 24 rockets at northern Israel Saturday as artillery and rocket duels raged between Hizbollah and Israeli and SLA forces. Separately, the Israeli army announced that unidentified attackers fired a number of rockets at an Israeli patrol in the eastern sector of the "security zone."

"As a result, a soldier was slightly wounded and treated on the spot. Fire was returned to the source of fire," an army statement said.

Rabin sees pressure for pullout from all Golan

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has raised the prospect of a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, fuelling a growing debate over the price he is willing to pay for peace with Syria. Mr. Rabin told an American Jewish group Sunday night it was hard to explain why Israel had returned all land seized from Egypt in 1967 in return for a peace treaty but did not want to hand back all the Golan in exchange for peace with Syria. "We are trying our best that the precedent of the price of peace that Israel paid for Egypt in territories, in the uprooting of settlements and the destruction of Yamit, will not be brought back," Mr. Rabin said. Mr. Rabin had repeatedly said Israel would be willing only to withdraw from part of the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau dominating adjoining land in both Israel and Syria. However, opposition parties in Israel have accused Mr. Rabin of preparing for a complete withdrawal from the land seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and retained after more fighting

Economist accuses Israel of concealing Palestinian taxes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A leading Palestinian economist said Monday Israel was collecting more than twice as many taxes from Arabs in the occupied territories as it said in a rare release of some budget figures last week. Al Najah University economics professor Atef Alawneh, who has pieced together information obtained from scattered official Israeli statistics, said he estimates the Israeli authorities collected over \$500 million from Palestinians in 1991 alone. The "civil administration" — the occupation authority — said Saturday that its current budget for the occupied territories was comprised of \$257 million collected from Palestinians and \$37.5 million contributed by the government of Israel. The figures on taxes collected from Palestinians did not include social security or income taxes deducted from those working inside Israel. Palestinians say Israel profits from taxes collected in the occupied territories. Israeli civil rights lawyer Avigdon Feldman has asked Israel's high court to order publication of the full territories budget. The court is to hear the case Tuesday.

Under the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, Israel returned the entire Sinai Peninsula, returning to the border existing at the start of the 1967 war. Mr. Rabin, who had expected the quickest progress in Middle East peace talks with Palestinians, has now focused on the prospects of a peace treaty with Syria. Israel has demanded that any "territorial concessions" produce a complete normalisation of relations with Damascus, including open borders and trade. Washington wants Middle East peace talks, now disrupted by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon, to resume in April. Syria, while expressing sympathy for the Palestinians, has emphasised its interest in resuming the talks. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday Israel would have to decide the fate of the Golan Heights by the Middle of this year. Mr. Peres said a political decision had to be made on the type of peace, security and extent of an Israeli withdrawal.

"The budget should include all income from Palestinians in the occupied territories whether employed in Israel or in the West Bank and Gaza," Mr. Alawneh said. He said not only income and social security taxes collected in Israel but value added taxes and other duties Palestinians paid in Israel should be included. Lieutenant-Colonel Hanan Rubin, spokesman for the policy chief in the occupied territories, said Saturday that Israel would publish the occupied territories budget for the first time since their seizure by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war to show "goodwill" towards the Palestinians. The "civil administration" released the amount of the overall budget and total figures for development, salaries and purchases. Asked this week when the detailed budget would be released, Col. Rubin said: "In the meantime those are the only figures we are publishing." The "civil administration" said that salaries accounted for 435 million shekels (\$155.36 million), purchases for 250 million shekels (\$99.29 million) and development for 142 million shekels (\$50.71 million) of the budget.



Medics try, without success, to save an Israeli man who was stabbed in Tel Aviv Monday by a Palestinian from the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

PLO disagrees with evictee leader's rejection of U.S. compromise plan

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Monday it disagreed with the Palestinian evictees' leader, Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, who rejected linking a solution of the expellee crisis to a U.S. plan to resume Middle East peace talks. "We find strange Rantisi's statements which want to limit the issues of the conflict to the direct issue of the expellees only," a PLO spokesman quoted by the Palestinian news agency Wafa said. "Any attempt to separate the current expellees' issue from the main national issues would harm our people's and objective's unity, and signals that its authors are concentrating their interests only on their own affairs, to the exclusion of the great sufferings

of our people, their national rights and Jerusalem," he added. The PLO's statement signals differences between the PLO and the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in their approach to a solution of the expellee crisis and a resumption of stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks, Palestinian sources in Tunis said. Hamas, the PLO's main rival in the occupied territories, is at the core of hardline Palestinian opposition to the peace talks. Many Hamas supporters were among the 415 Palestinians expelled by Israel 11 weeks ago. Dr. Rantisi, a founding member of Hamas and leader of the 396 exiles who remain in South Lebanon, rejected Monday a reported six-point U.S. proposal to end the crisis over the evictees and resume Middle East peace

talks. He said the proposal as reported by Palestinian sources weakened their position. "Presenting the six points are a waste of time for Israel's benefit and are aimed at dissolving our cause, especially if Resolution 799 is linked to these points," he said. He reiterated the Security Council should take steps to implement its resolution, which demands the immediate return of the evictees to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Resolution 799 was passed one day after the Palestinians were expelled on Dec. 17. Israel refuses to implement it. "We warn of practices aiming

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Bosnia airdrops 'a mystery'

SARAJEVO (R) — U.S. cargo planes airdropped 21 tonnes of emergency aid to besieged Muslims in eastern Bosnia under cover of darkness Monday but the operation appeared to have missed its target. "It is a parachute mystery," Sarajevo Radio said in a broadcast more than 12 hours after the three C-130 planes had returned to Germany from the first relief drop of President Bill Clinton's controversial mercy mission. U.S. Admiral James A. Lair said Cerska, where Muslims have been cut off from outside help behind Serb siege lines since war erupted in Bosnia last April, had been the only target. Adm. Lair, speaking aboard the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy in the Adriatic, said the six-hour mission had gone "just like clockwork."

But a radio ham in the snow-bound mountain enclave said none of the 30 crates of military rations and medical supplies that slid from the rear of the Lumbering C-130s had yet been found. "Some information from the field says there was something spotted in Serb-held territory, but we can't say it is humanitarian aid," the radio ham said on a link to Sarajevo. "Houses were burning in some of the recently captured territory... maybe they (the U.S. aircrews) thought that was a signal to drop there." A Serb, who cut in on the radio link, was asked if Serbs had received any supplies from the air. "Nothing, nothing. We don't need anything," he replied. Unconfirmed reports from Bosnian Muslims that Cerska might be about to fall to Serbs were among accounts of fighting across the republic Monday. Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic said he had no confirmation of anyone finding aid and urged bolder action by the Americans. "In order for this to be a success that Americans have to repeat the drops over and over again. That's the only way to hit the target," Mr. Ganic told Reuters. See earlier story on page 3

Hamas denies seeking to replace PLO, says diplomacy aims at stating stand

By Sana Atyeh
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) unease over the Islamic Resistance Movement's (Hamas) diplomatic contacts with Western embassies in Amman and PLO fears that the Islamic group was trying to play an alternative role to the PLO is unfounded, a Hamas leader said Monday. Hamas representative in Amman Mohammad Nazzal said the diplomatic offensive was not an effort to undermine the role of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, but an effort to convince the West that Hamas was not a terrorist group. "The PLO fears over our contacts with Western embassies is unfounded," Mr. Nazzal told the Jordan Times. "This move is not and should not contradict the efforts of the PLO since we are not trying to be the organisation's alternative representative."

Hamas leaders met last week with the British, French, German and Italian ambassadors, and twice with U.S. diplomat Eric Gaudiosi after reports said the U.S. was labelling the Islamic movement as a "terrorist" organisation. The group is also trying to establish contact with Amman-based ambassadors from member states of the U.N. Security Council. These meetings drew an angry reaction from PLO officials in Tunis, who have so far failed to resume its dialogue with the PLO. The dialogue was suspended after an aborted attack on a Tel Aviv beach by a Palestinian faction in May 1991. A senior PLO official in Amman described the Hamas diplomatic moves as "looking for a direct role to deal with the expulsion issue."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, was referring to Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians, whom Israel said were

Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists. The official insisted that "Hamas has found itself cornered and its hands tied with the expulsion issue." "The expulsion crisis made Hamas realise that the PLO was the only legitimate body which could deal with the crisis, since it is the only organisation internationally recognised as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the official added. But Mr. Nazzal dismissed accusations that Hamas was trying to take over the role of the PLO, saying that establishing contacts with Western governments was a "legitimate right to avoid being labelled as terrorists."

Palestinian analysts, however, said that American acceptance to meet with Hamas representative while continuing its ban on contacts with the PLO was a part of U.S. efforts to pressure the PLO. (Continued on page 5)

Christopher confident of April peace talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said he is confident Middle East peace talks would resume in Washington in April and hinted at further easing of the crisis over Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians. "I think the parties will agree to resume the conversations in April," Mr. Christopher said Sunday on NBC television's "Meet the Press" programme. Mr. Christopher said without elaboration that he believed there would be developments shortly easing the peace talks obstacle of Israel's expulsion of the 415 Palestinians to Lebanon. "We think there may be some things that are going to be happening in the near future that will be reassuring on that front," Mr. Christopher said. "We also have, I think, a plan for the solution or resolution of the deportees problem, which has kept them away from the table," he said.

Mr. Christopher has just returned from a week of talks with Middle East leaders. He also issued a joint invitation along with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Geneva on Thursday for Arabs and Israelis to resume talks in April. Baz returns home
Osama Al Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, returned to Cairo Monday after talks with Israeli leaders about steps to resume the peace talks. Rida Shehata, head of Mr. Mubarak's information office, said Dr. Baz had delivered a

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Disarray hits Progress and Justice Party after elections shift leadership

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
of democracy to take control of the party. They were alluding to the election of Ali Al Saad, a young businessman, as chairman of the party and the subsequent election of a majority of his supporters to the executive and central committees. Most of those who resigned told the Jordan Times that Mr. Saad was politically inexperienced and that they did not feel that the new team is capable of adding credibility to the political and social message of the party. The people who jumped on the leadership of the party have nothing to offer politically," Dr. Hamzeh told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview. "They are just looking for positions and have forgotten about working towards what is best for the party."

The mass resignation could have been avoided if the elections to the central and executive committees were "more representative of the geographical and social array within the party," one party member said. The 19-member executive office has among its ranks five members from one city and another four from one tribe, giving it a tribal-district makeup rather than the more encompassing leadership and party structure initially envisioned for the party, insiders say. Party members who agree with the viewpoints of those who resigned Sunday say that they are upset by the way things were run after Mr. Saad was elected as chairman and not by his success. "There was a deviation from the path drawn out for the party," a party insider told the Jordan Times. "We were waiting for the results of the executive and central committee elections thinking that an attempt would be made to fix things," he said. "That did not happen. What we got was a limping central committee and a paralysed executive office."

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New Palestinian party in occupied territories seen as a litmus for political waters

By Mariam M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The upcoming inauguration of the first political party in the occupied territories will mark the beginning of a transfer of political power from Palestinians in exile to those living under occupation, Palestinian observers said this week after an organisational meeting of the party leadership concluded in Amman.

The Palestinian Democratic Federation, a group of independent, centrist, and former members of Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), as well as several other mostly left wing groups have formed what they claim will be "the secular-centrist party in the occupied territories."

Known by the acronym FIDA, the group is headed at this interim stage by a Jerusalem-based former political prisoner and DFLP member, Saman Khoury.

Mr. Khoury has many of the characteristics that are particular to FIDA. Since he began his political activities he joined the DFLP when it was the only Palestinian group with any popular support to call for co-existence with Israel, i.e. a two-state solution along the lines of U.N. Resolution 181.

In 1988 he was charged by Israeli authorities of being a leader of the Unified Leadership of the Intifada and sentenced to four years imprisonment.

While in jail he followed political events in the occupied territories as well as in Tunis, where the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership is based. When the DFLP split in September 1991, Mr. Khoury decided to join the Tunis-based branch which was led by Yasser Abed Rabbo, former deputy to DFLP chief Nayef Hawatmeh.

"Facts on the ground do change and the DFLP has, on the whole, always adapted to those changes," Mr. Khoury said. "The people under occupation have to face up to the change and have to live with Israel and the Israelis. That's why the majority of the DFLP members in the occupied territories backed the Tunis-based faction. The policies it was proposing were closer to reality than the policies drawn up in Damascus," he explained in an interview with the Jordan Times.

At the time of the split DFLP members in Tunis also called for sharing of decision-making responsibilities with people in the occupied territories.

"People in the territories look at the democracy that the Jews have in Israel... We want the same for ourselves. We too want the man in the street to have a voice. The archaic centralised decision-making system is a thing of the past," Mr. Khoury said.

It was the intifada, says a Tunis-based advisor to Mr.

Arafat, that launched the "evolutionary process of the eventual transfer of power from outside the boundaries of Palestine to within those boundaries."

"The 'popular' struggle was now being fought from within and this was the signal we had all been waiting for," adds the advisor.

"Today the establishment of FIDA is another link in the chain of events that will lead to self-rule in the occupied territories. People have taken matters into their own hands and we in Tunis must struggle to keep up with the developments," said the advisor.

Many non-Fatah and non-DFLP Palestinian activists, however, believe that FIDA may turn out to be no more than an extension of the DFLP. "Many of the top members in FIDA are former DFLP people and that worries me," said a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Leaders of the Tunis-based DFLP wing have said that they would represent FIDA and its interests in PLO institutions.

"Representatives of the DFLP in the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestine Central Council (PCC) and the Palestine National Council (PNC) will represent the Palestinian Democratic Federation and its political positions and interests from now on," said Saleh Raafat, the Jordan-based representative of

the Abed Rabbo faction of the DFLP.

Some members of Fatah say that the launching of FIDA may be a "test" to measure the possible success of such a party. "I am sure Abu Ammar gave his approval to this party in order to test the ground in the occupied territories," said one Fatah member who is based in Amman.

Some critics even go as far as to claim that the party is directly linked to Fatah. "The representative of the group in Tunis is Abed Rabbo's group and he is a close and 'dependent' ally of Arafat," said one member of Mr. Abed Rabbo's rival group, the Damascus-based DFLP wing led by Mr. Hawatmeh.

One of the many goals that FIDA has in common with Fatah is its desire to offset the gains and support that the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has won among the Palestinian masses in the last two years.

"Our programme clearly states that we are the secular alternative to sectarian and religious politics," said a Gaza-based member of the group, Amer Abu Amer.

Mr. Abu Amer, 25, who hails from the slums of Gaza, says that "in Gaza the DFLP was never that strong. It was Fatah, the PFLP and some other groups and then it was Hamas and Islamic Jihad that had following in the street in Gaza."

There are a lot of people in the Gaza Strip who have not committed themselves to any particular political group, says Mr. Abu Amer. Gaza, which is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, is however, "a real test for FIDA, because the Islamists are strong there."

If FIDA picks up a strong following in Gaza — even 20 per cent — then the party will take off everywhere else, Mr. Abu Amer predicted.

FIDA programme calls for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war. East Jerusalem, where the party's headquarters is based, should be returned to Arab rule, says FIDA's agenda.

Mr. Khoury says that recruiting activities in labour unions, professional associations, colleges, the Palestinian Women's Federation and prisons have been underway for months.

The ability of the group to finance itself through membership fees and donations as well as its ability to maintain organisational independence from Tunis will decide much of its future success, West Bank observers say.

"FIDA should take care to be truly independent in its programme. If it is seen in the territories as another messenger from Tunis it will fail," said a cautious supporter of the group who is based in Ramallah.

Somali warlord meets ultimatum

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali warlord Ahmad Omar Jess has started pulling his forces back from the outskirts of the southern port of Kismayu in compliance with an ultimatum from the U.S. military, a U.S. spokesman said Monday.

In another sign of détente in Kismayu, elders from Colonel Jess's faction and from that of his main rival, Mohammad Said Hersi, known as General Morgan, held more than three hours of peace talks there on Monday, U.S. Marine Colonel Fred Peck told reporters.

"Things are looking pretty positive for us at the moment in Kismayu," he added.

Heavy fighting broke out in the town last week when forces loyal to Gen. Morgan, advancing from the west, infiltrated some quarters held by Col. Jess. Kismayu remains under curfew.

Somalia's ceasefire committee will hold a day-long meeting Tuesday to examine violations a week after riots and gunbattles rocked the Horn of Africa country, the U.N. announced.

"The ceasefire committee will meet tomorrow, all 15 factions which signed the Addis Ababa ceasefire agreement last month are expected to attend," Farouk Mawlawi, U.N. spokesman in Somalia, told reporters.

He said the meeting — to be jointly chaired by U.N. forces deputy commander in Somalia Canadian Major-General James Cox and a U.S. commander, Colonel Peter Dett — would complete a report on last week's violence, the worst since the 23-nation U.N. force landed in December.

Col. Peck said the only disturbances Monday were some demonstrations and stone-throwing by supporters of Col. Jess and his ally in Mogadishu, Gen. Mohammad Farah Aided.

Col. Jess and Gen. Aided blamed the infiltration by Gen. Morgan's forces on the Americans, saying they were taking a softer line towards his militia than towards their own.

But Gen. Morgan, a son-in-law of deposed dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, pulled his forces back from Kismayu several days ago and handed some of his heavy weapons over to the U.S. army.

Col. Peck said Col. Jess's forces were now on the move but it was not yet clear how far north they had reached.



An American Marine takes part in an arms search Sunday in a southern area of the Somali capital, Mogadishu. The search for arms was also continuing in the southern port city of Kismayu (AFP photo).

The U.S. ultimatum, delivered Sunday, said Mr. Jess should move about 120 kilometres north of Kismayu and assemble his forces in cantonment areas.

"We don't see anyone moving around (in the Kismayu area), other than Jess doing what we've asked him to do," Col. Peck said.

The United States hopes Col. Jess will follow Gen. Morgan's example and give up some or all of his heavy weapons.

"We've waiting for a similar gesture on the part of Jess and we've heard it may be forthcoming," said Col. Peck.

The political talks in Kismayu were the first of substance between the two sides and the out-

come was positive, he added. "They agreed to stop the fighting and to stop these demonstrations. They agreed to meet again tomorrow... they want to set up their own security council," he said.

In the second meeting on Tuesday, the elders plan to discuss forming a police force in Kismayu, he added.

The Security Council would ensure that police officers chosen were reputable and represented a fair mix of the clans in the town, the second largest in Somalia.

"That's a very good development, to see the two factions were nearing some sort of accord to get along together,"

Minister says Muslim militants behind Cairo bombing

CAIRO (R) — Egypt says "extremist group," the government's term for Muslim militants, were responsible for last Friday's bombing of a Cairo cafe which killed three people.

One of the dead was among those who planted the bomb, Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa was quoted as saying by the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram Monday.

Several other people involved in the bombing had been detained. Security services had full information on the rest of the group and they would be arrested within hours," he said.

The bombing, which injured 16 people, was the worst act of political violence in Cairo for many years. The blast ripped through a cafe crowded with Egyptians and young foreigners drinking tea and coffee and smoking water pipes.

The dead were an Egyptian, a

Turk and a Swede and the injured included Egyptians, Americans, Somalis, a Canadian and a Frenchman.

"The terrorist Imad Abdul Basit, who died in the cafe after both his legs were blown off, was one of those who planted the bomb in the cafe," Al-Ahram quoted Mr. Musa as telling members of parliament in the Gharbiya region Sunday.

He said one of the "extremists" contacted a German news agency to claim responsibility for the bombing.

The agency's Cairo bureau chief, Joerg Fischer, said it had reported that leaflets circulating in Upper Egypt claimed responsibility in the name of Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), a militant group which has carried out a series of tourist-related attacks in the last five months. Gama'a representatives con-

tacted at least two other news organisations in Cairo Saturday by fax and telephone to deny that it had anything to do with the attack.

They said Gama'a had caused relatively few casualties, in accordance with a policy of hitting "tourism but not tourists," and it would not target innocent people in a public place.

Diplomats and security sources said Gama'a might be breaking into semi-independent cells under pressure from a government crackdown and the cafe bomb might have been planted by a cell working on its own.

Mr. Musa said the authorities received information some time ago that such an attack was possible but they had not expected the target to be the Nile Valley Coffee House, which overlooks central Cairo's biggest square.

The information had included the names of those who planned,

organised and carried out the attack, he said.

Mr. Musa said explosives experts established that the bomb contained two kilograms of TNT and had been placed under a chair in the cafe, but neither customers nor staff noticed it.

Security sources said all the Egyptians injured in the attack were under suspicion and they and their families were being questioned.

They added that this had caused confusion over the number of dead.

Doctors at Kasr Al Aini hospital where the victims were treated said Saturday that four people died in the bomb. But the sources said there were only three dead.

They said the supposed fourth was an Egyptian man who had been removed from the hospital for questioning on Friday night and returned later.

S. Arabia maintains quota for 1993 Haj

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said Monday quotas limiting the number of Muslims visiting Mecca on the annual Haj, will remain in force this year.

The Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs announced the quotas for the Haj, which this year will be at the end of May, in a statement quoted by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

"We hope all countries will respect the quota for pilgrims which has been set at one in a thousand of each country's population," the statement said.

Saudi Arabia, official guardian of Muslims' holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina, introduced the quotas in 1988 after more than 400 people, mostly Iranians, were killed in clashes with security forces who stopped them holding political rallies.

It said the quotas were introduced to relieve overcrowding at the pilgrimage sites that normally host up to two million pilgrims during the Haj, which lasts at least five days.

Iran rejected the quotas but allowed pilgrims to come back in 1991 after a three-year boycott.

The Saudi statement asked all Muslim countries to submit lists of pilgrims before the end of the Holy month of Ramadan, which ends in the third week of March.

It advised pilgrims on travel, accommodation and health care arrangements and security measures for the Haj — a must for every Muslim at least once in a lifetime.

The statement said Saudi authorities would deal harshly with anyone in possession of "pictures, books or political pamphlets or any other banned material."

Pilgrims, it said, would not be allowed to take part in any political gatherings or demonstrations or to chant political slogans.

Iraq denies report of new campaign in south

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq Monday strongly rejected allegations by a British newspaper that its army had launched a new campaign against Shiite rebels, bombing their villages and poisoning their water.

An Information Ministry spokesman said the report was "inspired by Iran," which comes to surface whenever the date of the Shiite at the Security Council comes closer.

The U.N. Security Council meets periodically to review sanctions imposed against Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Respect of human rights and abstention from oppression are among its key conditions for lifting this embargo.

The British weekly Observer reported Sunday that "hundreds" of children, women and children have been slaughtered since the start of the year, many the victims of large artillery bombardment.

The report was written by its Middle East correspondent Shyam Bhatia, who recently spent 10 days with Shiite rebels.

The southern marshes are difficult to reach from Iraq, but journalists often are escorted by rebels across the border from Iran. The Baghdad government sometimes organises trips to that region, and the Information Ministry spokesman invited the Western media to make such a trip.

"Press and television correspondents in Britain and other countries can come to Iraq to visit the marshes to acquaint themselves with the normal situation there, and establish that what the Observer has reported is a pure fabrication," said the spokesman in a written statement distributed to Baghdad-based reporters.

The spokesman accused the British weekly of having "close links" with the Iranian regime. "It has given publicity... to some Iranian lies and fabrications."

UAE assembly holds first public forum

ABU DHABI (R) — Two members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Federal Assembly attended the first of a series of "meet the people" meetings advertised as part of an attempt to give the public greater access to its leaders.

Citizens were also thin on the ground at the meeting held before dawn Monday in a large tent in the centre of the UAE capital Abu Dhabi.

Some 30 citizens, joined by a sprinkling of diplomats, journalists and former members of the Federal National Council (FNC), attended the meeting which opened after midnight because, organisers said, most citizens stay up until dawn in the Holy Month of Ramadan when Muslims fast during daylight hours.

Seven asked questions which ranged from the application of religious law to how citizens could expect a wider role in government.

Members said the decision to hold public forums, the first of their kind to increase access to the government, was a bold step by the new FNC of 40 appointed representatives of the seven UAE emirates, which met on Feb. 6 after an 18-month break.

A recording of the friendly and largely uncontroversial two-hour debate is due to be broadcast by UAE television later in the week. It was not immediately clear if subsequent meetings would also be held in the middle of the night.

"For any majlis or parliament it is important to have a centre for ideas... so leaders don't sequester themselves behind closed doors... unaware of the people's lives and needs," Rashid Al Mazroui, one of the two PNC members who attended, said in response to a question about the council's role.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 771111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Michael Vaillant
18:30 La Famille Ramlan
19:00 News in French
19:15 News in Arabic
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 The Dynasty Dynasty
22:00 News in English
22:30 Big Man

PRAYER TIMES

04:42 Fajr
12:40 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
13:04 Asr
15:57 Maghreb
18:54 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swireh, Tel. 50759
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62758
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62719
De la Salle Church Tel. 601757
Terzian Church Tel. 622266

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630551, Tel. 620543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 622208

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824326

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 828204, 649332

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

Church of the Redeemer ... Tel. 638526

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be warm and partly cloudy and winds will be southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly fresh and seas choppy.

Min/Max. temp.

Amman ... 9/26

Aqaba ... 15/31

Dead Sea ... 5/17

Jordan Valley ... 11/27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

man 25, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Labadsh ... 683585

Dr. Zein Zaghoul ... 638591

Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas ... 739155

Dr. Jihad Zayd ... 881148

Fine pharmacy ... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy ... 778336

Al Asma pharmacy ... 637055

Nairosh pharmacy ... 623672

Al Salan pharmacy ... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945

Shimicani pharmacy ... 637660

Nairosh pharmacy ... 623672

Najsh pharmacy ... 847632

BRID:

Dr. Mezza Shariri ... 6444

Alquds pharmacy ... 6444

ZARQA:

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim ... (-)

Khalif pharmacy ... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Dept ... 637111

Civil Defence Department ... 661111

Rescue ... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency ... 199

Rescue Police ... 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ... 891228

Blood Bank ... 775121

Highway Police ... 843402

Traffic Police ... 896390

Public Security Department ... 630321

Hotel Complaints ... 603600

Price Complaints ... 661176

Water and Sewerage: Complaints ... 897467

Amman Municipality ... 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... 121

Emergency Calls ... 010230

Amman Telephone

REPAIRS

Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 661101

Jordan Television ... 773111

Radio Jordan ... 774111

Water Authority ... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615

Electric Power Company ... 636381

RJ Flight Information ... 661311

Queen Alia Int. Airport ... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre ... 813813/32

Khalif Maternity, J. Amm ... 644261/6

Al-Khalif Maternity, J. Amm ... 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362

Mahdi, J. Amman ... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani ... 664717/14

Shmeisani Hospital ... 669131

University Hospital ... 845845

Al-Musasher Hospital ... 667227/9

Italian, Al-Mutajirah ... 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ... 775112/6

Army, Marks ... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital ... 66010



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday calls at the Armed Forces Headquarters where he meets with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb to discuss issues of common interest to the Armed Forces (Army Moral Guidance Directorate photo)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King cables Morocco, Bulgaria, Slovakia, S. Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to King Hassan II of Morocco, congratulating him on the anniversary of his accession to the Throne, and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Moroccan people further progress and prosperity. The King sent a similar cable to the Bulgarian President congratulating him on his country's national day. In a third cable, King Hussein congratulated the Slovakian President on his election and wished him continued good health and happiness and the Slovak people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also sent a cable to the South Korean President congratulating him on the assumption of his duties and wishing him and his people every success and prosperity.

Crown Prince condoles Hiyassat family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday delegated Balqa Governor Eid Al Qataneh to convey his condolences to the Hiyassat family over the death of Abdul Fattah Al Hiyassat, who served as secretary general of the Jordanian Writers Federation until his death last Thursday.

Prince Abdullah visits with Sharif Zeid

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Tuesday called at the Prime Ministry and met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Senate returns illegal acquisition of wealth law to House

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament Tuesday maintained its stand with regard to a draft law on the illegal acquisition of wealth and returned it to the Lower House. The Senate refused to endorse the draft law before several amendments had been approved.

Tax office collects, over JD 9m in February

AMMAN (Petra) — Last month the Income Tax Department collected JD 9,300,511 compared with JD 4,525,020 in February 1992, according to the department's director general Mansour Haddadin. Mr. Haddadin said the department has collected JD 45,577,057 over the last two months. He thanked the citizens for their encouraging response and called on tax payers, who have not yet filed their statements for the year 1992 to do so by the end of March to benefit from the 2 per cent discount.

IDB to grant 10 loans worth over JD 2m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) board of directors Tuesday approved 10 loans worth JD 2,414,000 to finance industrial projects. Six out of the ten loans will be used to support existing industries, producing photocopying paper, chewing gum, cotton clothing, lamps and electric distribution panels. The remaining four loans will be used to finance new projects costing JD 2,180,000. The new industries will produce aluminium shutters, chlorine, soda and its derivatives, underwear and raw material for the paint industry. These projects are set to create 163 new job opportunities.

Engineers host benefit Ifar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Engineers Association's (JEA) committee for supporting the Palestinian uprising will host an Ifar Wednesday to benefit the families of the Palestinians expelled by Israel to southern Lebanon in December. Committee Chairman Yasser Ghamam called on citizens to help the committee in its endeavour by buying tickets to the Ifar. Mr. Ghamam said each ticket will be sold at JD 2. The Ifar will be held at the Professional Unions Complex in Shmeisani.

Jarash-Amman road closed temporarily

JARASH (Petra) — The Jarash-Amman road is closed for traffic until further notice, according to Jarash District Governor Khalid Al Khreisha. The governor said the closure resulted from a landslide in a mountainous area where work is currently underway on the new highway linking Amman with Irbid. Mr. Khreisha said the landslide resulted in 40 metres of cracks and holes which make it impossible for motorists to use this road. The district governor called on the Jarash Public Security Department to ban the use of this road and to fix warning signs alerting motorists not to use this road for their own safety.

Poverty committee to look at minimum wage

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government appointed committee charged with conducting a study to determine the number of families living in poverty and absolute poverty should attempt to determine the minimum level of wages and raise the low wages of workers, Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Development Mohammad Sqour said.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, committee head Mohammad Sqour said fixing wages can encourage people to take up various available jobs. Dr. Sqour was charged Saturday, with heading the committee that will base its study on the results of surveys conducted up to the end of 1992.

The committee plans to hold daily meetings to finalise its work within a month, Dr. Sqour said.

Dentists to launch education programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, a two-day symposium on dental care and dental health education will begin on April 14 at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Participants will discuss 12 working papers on dental health, fluoride and its uses, fillers and their uses, dental health education and the role of the media in promoting dental health awareness.

Taking part in the symposium will be representatives of the Ministries of Health and Education, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the regional centre for counselling and research on dental health.

The symposium is organised by the Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) on the occasion of the Arab Day for Mouth and Dental Health, which falls on March 9.

To mark this occasion the JDA's education and information committee has prepared a dental health education programme, which will be implemented on Saturday.

The five-day programme includes health lectures, symposia, and free dental check-ups for school students, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Air France, partners offer new travel incentives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Air France and its three European partner airlines: Air Inter, CSA Czechoslovak Airlines, and Sabena have launched the Euro Flyer Pass, which they say will allow passengers the opportunity to see more of Europe for less money.

Air France has ownership stakes in all three of the smaller airlines. By combining their European route networks, the four airlines will be able to offer more than 100 stopover points in Europe.

An Air France passenger arriving in Paris from Jordan, for example, can use the Euro Flyer Pass to go from Paris to Nice on Air Inter, from Nice to Rome on Air France, from Rome to Prague on CSA, Prague to Brussels on Sabena and then Brussels to Paris either on Air France or Sabena.

From Paris the passenger can return to Amman. In Jordan the Euro Flyer Pass is also available in conjunction with Royal Jordanian flight Amman-Paris-Amman.

Iraqis stage sleep-in at UNHCR offices, demand resettlement

By Sansan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nineteen Iraqi refugees, including five children, spent Monday night at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), demanding their resettlement in any country that would accept them.

These Iraqis came to Jordan on forged passports and applied for political asylum, claiming to be part of the Iraqi opposition.

The UNHCR has recognised them as refugees and submitted an application for their resettlement to other countries because Jordan does not accept refugees.

Since the Iraqis' arrival in Jordan, the UNHCR has provided the refugees with a document that allows them to remain in Jordan until another country accepts them. The UNHCR has also provided them with an allowance, but the Iraqis claim that the UNHCR is discriminatory, giving non-Iraqis more money than Iraqis.

UNHCR Protection Officer Fouzi Abed Al Majeed denied this charge saying that the money is allocated according to the number of individuals in a family.

The protesters have also accused the UNHCR of being responsible for their long stay in Jordan.

One refugee, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the UNHCR head in Jordan has described their case as "unimportant" and therefore, other countries see no need to accept them.

Dr. Abed Al Majeed said the UNHCR cannot describe any case it accepts as unimportant. He added that the acceptance by other countries of the refugees benefits the UNHCR because as long as the refugees are in Jordan the UNHCR is responsible for their food, shelter and actions. He explained that their delay is because the countries that take in refugees perceive their cases as weak.

The act that triggered this protest was the toughening up of enforcement of the Jordanian Residence and Aliens Law, which the protesters claim led to their dislodgement.

The UNHCR has offered them hotel accommodations, but the refugees refused, explaining that it is not safe to stay in hotels.

They believe by staying in the UNHCR building they will pressure U.N. officials to facilitate their travel arrangements.

Dr. Abed Al Majeed said the UNHCR is powerless in this arena. All they can do is help the refugees while they are still in Jordan. He added that they are trying to persuade the protesters to go to hotels and wait until they receive an acceptance for resettlement.

He also said that this act of protest will harm the refugees rather than help them, labelling them as trouble makers.

The refugees, he explained, should keep a low profile, in order to speed up the process of their acceptance.

New anti-Zionism, racism group opens door to all Jordanians

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Society for Combating Zionism and Racism Tuesday opened its doors for all Jordanians to join the society in efforts to "educate the people on the dangers and threats of Zionism and to defend our culture from this danger," Lower House Deputy Laith Shbeilat said.

The Islamist deputy and president of the newly-formed society announced in a press conference that the society aimed at distributing throughout the Kingdom "well-researched published information on the dangers of Zionist thinking and its programme."

Speaking to reporters from his parliamentary office, Mr. Shbeilat said the work of the society, registered at the Ministry of Culture in August 1992, focused on promoting, translating and providing scientific studies and books, as well as holding seminars, "not speeches," on the issue of Zionism.

"Our job is to try to close the cultural gap that has emerged in the last two decades regarding public knowledge on the true Zionist dangers and threats," Mr. Shbeilat said. "We only want to reveal what the Zionist programme is and how it works: to reveal how and where Zionism has infiltrated; and to know where the enemy is, hoping to fend off its infiltration into our culture. This is a cultural battle."

Mr. Shbeilat was speaking in his first press conference since his release from prison in November 1992. He, along with Deputy Yacoub Qarash, was sentenced by the State Security Court to twenty years at hard labour after a five-week public trial in which he was convicted of belonging to an illegal armed group, "Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami," which allegedly aimed to topple the regime.

Mr. Shbeilat, who maintained his innocence throughout the trial and accused the court and prosecution of fabricating the seven charges against him, was released after His Majesty King Hussein issued a general amnesty on Nov. 12, two days after the sentencing.

The deputy said the society expected to raise its funds from members and donations. He welcomed participation of people from all walks of life who are convinced that Zionism was indeed threatening the Arab and Islamic entity and culture, but he insisted that no one political ideology or person would have any unilateral control over the society.

The deputy explained that specialised committees would be set up to research different fields of Zionism, such as Zionist history, Zionism and racism, infiltration of Zionism in the new world order, and so on.

Describing the society as a "think-tank for everybody's use," Mr. Shbeilat added that the group's work was limited to providing information on Zionism to whoever wanted it, "including the government."

"The people, institutions, political parties or the government can use this information and be

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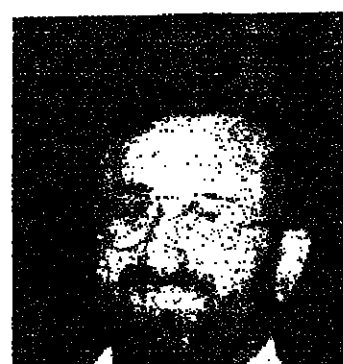
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Laith Shbeilat

Responsible for their decisions," Mr. Shbeilat stressed, adding that political activity was not part of the society's objectives.

He added that with the ongoing peace process, where normalisation of relations between the Arabs and Israel may be imminent in a settlement, "we should be ready to fend off the danger of a Zionist cultural invasion."

Mohammad Nahhas, treasurer of the society, explained that although the group does not permit political recruitment, the 25 founders hope that the information provided by the society could "change the political trends of those who are indifferent to the dangers of Zionism."

Mr. Shbeilat said the group's priority at this time was to expand its membership to include thinkers and academicians who would actively participate in the work, "and would see the results of the work take shape in certain projects."

Local company wins export order to U.S. American officials call it a major breakthrough

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

SAHAB INDUSTRIAL CITY — A Jordanian company has won export orders for biscuits worth \$750,000 to the U.S. in what is described by American officials as a major breakthrough in foreign markets for Jordanian industries producing consumer products.

The orders, which are expected to be filled beginning July this year, were made possible after officials of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) helped the company meet some of the stringent quality control measures imposed by U.S. government agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), AID officials said.

United Confectionery and Food Company Limited, which has its plants in this industrial area southeast of Amman, secured the order for their "butter cookies" against stiff competition from Danish companies, said George Khoury of the company.

According to Donald Reese, director of the Office of Trade, Investment and Production at the USAID office in Amman, "this is the first step; the company has a potential market worth \$3 million in the American market."

The help USAID extended to the company, he said, came in line with the efforts the agency is exerting to help Jordan earn foreign exchange through exports.

With proper assistance, technical and otherwise, Jordan and Jordanians have the potential to develop export markets for its products, AID officials said, adding that agricultural produce as well as marble were among the items that Jordan could successfully sell abroad.

In addition to helping Jordanian companies identify foreign markets and improve the quality of products to meet international standards, the USAID also extends assistance in the form of Community Import Programmes (CIP) under which importers are given easy credit terms.

Furthermore, the agency also cooperates with the University of Jordan's Industrial Engineering Department to produce skilled personnel who could help develop and run industrial units.

In addition, USAID "maintains a constant dialogue with the government to ease bureaucracy and offer incentives to exporters," Mr. Reese told the Jordan Times.

The dollar value of the order for "butter cookies" may be low, but "what is important is the fact that a Jordanian company has won export orders for a consumer product to the U.S.," said Bastian B. Schouten, deputy director of USAID Jordan.

The company, which also produces concentrated beverages and already exports to markets in the Gulf states, registered a total sales turnover of about \$1.5 million in 1992, Mr. Khoury said.

The company benefited from a \$30,000 facility offered to it under AID's Commodity Import Programme and is now seeking \$150,000 under the same programme to import machinery, Mr. Schouten said.

U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison, Mr. Schouten and other senior AID officials Tuesday visited the Sahab plant.

The ambassador pledged to extend all possible assistance to the company to further develop its production line and expand its markets.

According to AID officials, the government should cut down on bureaucracy and offer further incentives to help Jordanian industries producing consumer products to compete successfully abroad.

"The producers should be able to buy imported ingredients at international prices," said Mr. Schouten, referring to customs duties levied in Jordan.



U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison Tuesday visits a confectionary in Sahab which recently won an export order to the U.S. (Photo by Nasser Moussa)

2 burglars arrested in Jarash

AMMAN (Petra) — Two men, suspected of committing several burglaries, were arrested on Feb. 17 by the Irbid police in Jarash, according to a Public Security Department (PSD) statement here Tuesday.

Withholding the identities of the two suspects, the PSD statement said the men allegedly lived in one of the caves in Wadi Kufr Khil near Jarash and local inhabitants became suspicious of their movements.

The Jarash police placed the two men under constant surveillance before storming their cave on Feb. 17 and arresting them, the statement said. It said the suspects admitted to committing the thefts and other crimes in the Amman and Zarqa regions.

According to the PSD statement, the two men knock at the door of a targeted home and if answered, they would claim they were looking for homes to rent; but, if there was no answer they would break into the home.

The police said the suspects used to steal electric appliances and sell them in Amman where buyers would ask no questions. The PSD added that the two men also worked with a local jeweller peddling fake jewellery.

Youth kills himself 2nd strangled victim found

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 21-year-old youth was reported to have killed himself leaping from a third floor apartment in what appeared to be a sex-related incident, sources said Tuesday.

The youth, identified by his initials as M.R., a graduate from an intermediate college, is believed to have chosen either to take his chances of escape or commit suicide after he was caught in a "compromising" situation with a married woman, the sources said.

The young man was working at an optician's, according to the sources. "Apparently the youth had an affair with a married woman," said one source. "He was inside the apartment of the woman when the husband knocked on the door shortly after Ifar Monday," said the source. "Obviously he had no choice but to jump from the third floor if he were to escape from the husband."

The youth jumped and broke his spinal cord and died immediately, according to the source. The identities of the woman and her husband were withheld, in line with usual police procedures.

Initial reports after the discovery of the body in Shmeisani were that it was the latest victim in a series of mysterious attacks which started in mid-September.

In another incident, the body of a 25-year-old man was found stuffed in a black bag near the cigarette factory in Ras Al 'Ain, reports said.

The man, identified as A.A., was strangled to death by a wire, according to the reports.

No further details were immediately available, except that the murder appeared to have been committed elsewhere and the body dumped in Ras Al 'Ain.

It was the second body found in similar circumstances in three days. But security sources ruled out any link between the two killings.

5 new industrial cities to go up in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Motivated by extremely good results at the two existing industrial cities in Jordan, the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) plans to build five additional industrial cities in different parts of the country, according to JIEC Director General Fayez Suheimat.

More industrial cities means attracting more investors from Arab and foreign countries and increasing industrial exports, Mr. Suheimat said in an interview with Agence France Presse (AFP).

The two active industrial cities are Sahab, established in 1984, 25 kilometres south-east of Amman and Al Hassan Industrial City, established in 1991 in Irbid, 88 kilometres north of Amman.

According to Mr. Suheimat, the two schemes succeeded in attracting 304 small to large businesses which produce plastics, chemical and electrical products and carpets.

"He estimated that by the end of 1992 investments in both cities were valued at \$310 million and employees numbered nearly 9,000."

Mr. Suheimat explained that the JIEC offers tempting conditions to investors because it lays down the infrastructure, carries out the civil works and offers investors all the facilities available under the Jordanian Encouragement of Investments Law.

He added that in each industrial city the JIEC opens the door

5 new industrial cities to go up in Jordan

to other businesses such as insurance companies, post offices, restaurants, banks and other essential services.

The JIEC normally exempts new companies from income tax for the first two years of operations and marketing products, and does not impose any municipal and land taxes on these industrial projects.

By the end of 1992, the Sahab scheme had 265 small, medium and large factories, including 10 from Arab countries and 15 with joint capital with foreign investors.

According to Mr. Suheimat, 60 per cent of these industries' production is exported to Arab countries, Europe and the United States, earning the Kingdom badly needed foreign currency.

Work on the five new schemes is expected to start in early 1994. Meanwhile, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday praised the role of industrial sector in supporting Jordan's development march.

In a meeting with industrial sector representatives in Sahab Industrial City, Princess Basma said the industrial sector has always risen to the level of responsibility and has deserved the confidence of the people at all times.

The Princess also reviewed the activities of the charity campaign, launched last week to assist the poor and the needy during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Industrialists voiced appreciation for the objectives of the campaign.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Saba Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in

Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

★ Poster exhibition entitled "The British Film Makers of the 80s" at the British Council.

★ Islamic book exhibition at the Islamic Centre in Zarqa.

FILM

★ British film entitled "Charing Cross Road" at the British Council — 7 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Curing the problem

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's response to the killing of two Israelis and the wounding of nine others in Tel Aviv Monday by a Gazan man is stupid. He must realise by now that placing Gaza under curfew or resorting to his old iron-fist policy will not put an end to the shedding of both Palestinian and Israeli blood. The cycle of violence and counter-violence will only be enhanced and deepened by Israel's resort to collective punishment. Casualties on both sides are a direct result of Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian lands and its systematic violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people. No-one would take comfort from the fact that innocent civilians are being killed. It is against Arab and Islamic norms to shed the blood of civilians.

Yet an end to the cycle of violence cannot be attained without the achievement of a just and permanent peace in the area. This much Mr. Rabin conceded immediately after the stabbing when he told his country that "only peace talks could provide a permanent" solution.

"But in the end," Rabin told Israel Radio, "without coming to a political solution there can be no effective answer to the problem."

One cannot agree more with Rabin on his diagnosis of the situation and his prescription for its resolution. What is puzzling however is his decision to seal off the entire Gaza Strip indefinitely as a retaliatory measure against the people of Gaza for Monday's attack. This arbitrary collective punishment against all Gazans has been taken in spite of the admission that the Palestinian attacker had acted alone. "According to the details we have," the deputy police chief in Tel Aviv told Israel Radio, "he (the attacker) acted alone when he planned to attack Jews as a result of disappointment that he had not found work."

True Islamic Jihad in Damascus sought "credit" for the attack but this attempt to associate the Islamic movement with the stabbing cannot be taken as reasonable or just grounds to mete out collective punishment against all the citizens of the Gaza Strip. Israel has already committed a gross injustice when it banished more than 400 Palestinians last December in the wake of the kidnapping and killing of an Israeli soldier. The immediate consequence of that grave violation of human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 was the suspension of the peace process. Till this point in time, the parties to the Arab-Israeli bilateral and multilateral peace talks have yet to find an equitable solution to the problem created by that Israeli over-reaction. By closing off the occupied Gaza Strip, Israel in effect is falling back to the same tactic of mass punishment that threatens to exacerbate the situation in the occupied territories and bring it closer than ever to the boiling point.

Since Rabin knows well the genesis of the cycle of violence in his country as well as in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he will do his people as well as the Palestinian people a great deal of justice if he not only expedites the resumption of the peace negotiations but also bring them to swift resolution.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A decision by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to go back on his pledges to repatriate the expelled and to withdraw Israeli troops from the Golan shows clearly that the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region in the past month did a great deal of harm to the peace process, said *Sawt Al Shaab* daily. The paper said that Mr. Rabin retreated from previously announced positions in the wake of Mr. Christopher's visit. Non-abdication by the U.N. resolutions means that Israel does not respect resolutions 242 and 338 in addition to 799 and means also that the U.S. is continuing its encouragement to the Israelis, enabling them to impede the peace process with the Arabs, the paper said. The paper also said that Mr. Christopher's recent visit to the region aimed at dividing the Arab parties and weakening their positions, giving rise to further feelings of desperation, which normally leads to violence. Egypt's most recent attempt to bring about a change in the Israeli position, added the daily, ended up in total failure and further weakened the Arabs and strengthened the Israeli position.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday placed the blame for the non-ending cycle of violence in the Middle East on the Israeli government, which, it said, had chosen the path of terrorism and intimidation to deal with the Palestinians. Violence can only beget violence and the Israelis should realise that they should expect a strong reaction from the Arabs, whose lands are usurped and whose men and women are being killed or tortured or banished from their homeland, said the daily. Israel has sown the seeds of violence and counter violence, which the occupied Arab lands are now witnessing, said the paper which was referring to the killing of two Israelis by an Arab in Tel Aviv Monday. The paper said by killing innocent Palestinians and demolishing their homes, Israel has initiated the cycle of violence, which can only end with the termination of occupation. Israel can start the peace process by implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and repatriating the expelled Palestinians, followed by implementation of resolutions 242 and 338, the paper demanded. It said that unless the Israeli leaders abandon their present policy of aggression and violence, they are bound to face counter violence on the part of the Palestinian Arabs. Only through peace can the Israelis and the Arabs be saved from the current cycle of horror and desperation, continued the daily.

Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdallah Malki

Growth and external imbalances

THE REAL 12% growth rate of Jordan's gross domestic product (GDP) in 1992 was a celebrated achievement by all standards despite its tentative nature. Three months after unveiling this rate, observers and analysts expect the release of a more refined ratio in the light of more recent data, especially with regard to prices.

Very skillfully, the authorities used the outstanding growth performance as a smoke cover for the appalling performance of imports, which jumped by a staggering rate of around 30% in 1992.

The GDP growth rate, the rise in the public domestic revenues and the very low growth rate of prices (4%), ignited some sort of euphoria. Though such euphoria is justified to a certain degree and in a certain sense, the message of today's column is to warn against the turning of this passing euphoria into permanent complacency. The theme here is that the growth of the economy is no guarantee against external imbalances, such as the trade deficit, the current and capital account deficits and the basic balance of payments deficit.

External imbalances are the other side of our external debt problem, which forced us to go, hat in hand, to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and to draft the economic adjustment programme.

Economic growth can certainly contribute to a healthier external balance but that is not a must. It does so through higher levels of exports (of goods and services) and through attracting investment. (Easier access to loans is another contribution but it is not an advantage).

But economic growth can also create mounting demand for

imports. Besides, any erroneous policies may trigger capital flight. Creditor countries are not necessarily those which outgrow debtor ones. Too much depends on the quality of economic growth. Such growth necessarily means higher incomes which in turn mean higher demand (for both consumption and capital formation purposes, but significantly for the former).

To the extent that the ongoing economic policy directs the extra demand more to domestic production, growth will improve the external balance. An export boom will enhance growth but will be thwarted by surging imports.

As for the specific case of Jordan, the historical experience and evidence are very indicative and decisive. Our economy posted the best growth rates during the seventies and early eighties. Nevertheless, it was in this particular period that we accumulated our external debt, which had exploded into the external debt problem of 1988 and sent us rallying for the help of the IMF.

No external debt can accumulate without over-importing. Excessive levels of imports occur mainly during elevated levels of income brought about by enhanced economic growth, especially with an open-door import policy. The steep rise in our GDP and the phenomenal jump in our imports in 1992 are a typical and telling, but also agonising, example of that.

Again, economic growth is not a guarantee for rectifying our external balances nor is it an alternative to prudent commercial policy and the rationalisation of imports.

Economic growth makes life easier in many fields and facilitates the conduct of successful economic policies but does not necessarily put out the fire of external debt. Nor does it prevent debt from spreading.



By Mark Power Stevens

THE ISSUE which lies at the very heart of the Middle East peace talks is Israel's control and settlement of Palestinian land. Despite Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's promises to his electorate and to the former U.S. administration, he has not "frozen" settlement, nor restricted it to the completion of building starts inherited from the previous Israeli government. Settlement building, the continued development of new infrastructure to serve the settlements, and the fact that over 65 per cent of the land of the occupied territories is closed to the Palestinian population, are all still a reality.

On-the-ground, there is little to distinguish between the Likud and Labour governments. Politically, Mr. Rabin, whilst attempting to obfuscate the issue through his re-definition of the settlements into "security" and "political" categories, has nevertheless made his intentions quite clear. At best, he intends to relinquish "some" land for peace, not "the" land, on the basis of what he contends are "security concerns" and the "irreversible" established presence of a sizeable Jewish population. Although the pursuit of "Greater Israel" appears not to be Mr. Rabin's plan, he does not intend to freeze settlement activity or return the millions of dunams of Palestinian land taken and built on since 1967. The issue which concerns us here is, firstly, what is happening under Mr. Rabin today? And, secondly, to what extent is it reversible?

Mr. Rabin proposes to keep the "51 security settlements," which are in the Jordan Valley and along the "eastern slopes of the Judea and Samaria hills," which constitute 30,000 of the 110,000 settlers outside of the Jerusalem area. He also totally rejects any talk of relinquishing control of Jerusalem, "the soul and the heart of the Jewish people and the state of Israel," or its "vicinity," which includes a further 150,000 settlers and together with the "security settlements" accounts for well over 50 per cent of the land of the West Bank.

Mr. Rabin's policy may constitute a rejection of Ariel Sharon's efforts to settle Jews among Palestinian population centres, but it essentially entails a return to the "cantonalisation" plans of earlier Israeli governments, and specifically the Allon plan of 1967. The much publicised "settlement freeze" in reality meant only freezing 7,000 units whilst some 13,000 were completed. It was a calculated ploy to win the American loan guarantees, and to divert U.S. policy from its stated principles, and it was successful.

In addition, there is ample evidence of continued settlement activity over-and-above Mr.

Rabin's supposed self-imposed limits. In the settlement of Beit Eyal, which is in neither the Jordan Valley nor the vicinity of Jerusalem where "security" settlements are located, 300 new homes are under construction, and they are all "legitimate".

The director of Beit Eyal's planning committee said the settlement is defined by the government as "a border correction community," indicating it has special status because of its close proximity to the Green Line. In the settlement of Ariel, construction is going ahead on 1,800 buildings after contractors won permission to "unfreeze" hundreds of units. A real-estate agent in Ariel's information and preparation centre claims that Ariel's population will be approaching 20,000 within a year and will be too large to freeze.

At the end of 1992, Peace Now in its "Settlement Watch" report stated that bulldozers were clearing new land at Ofra settlement near the West Bank town of Ramallah, amongst other places. The group also quoted Israeli government statistics that 24,000 units were to be built in 1992/93, including 12,500 in "Greater Jerusalem". And, in another report, it was admitted by the mayor of Jerusalem's spokeswoman that the Rabin government had just agreed to the appropriation of 200 acres of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem for the construction of a new Jewish neighbourhood.

Further, according to Peace Now, there is more construction per person going on in the Jewish settlements than in the Palestinian areas, the Israeli authorities continue to allocate some 65 cubic metres of water per person more to Jewish settlers than to Palestinians, continues to make up to 13 times more water available for Jewish agriculture than for Palestinian, and continues to allocate 96.5 agorots of every shekel reaching the occupied territories to the Jewish settlers.

The misleading nature of Labour's "compromise" proposals compared to the absoluteness of Likud's position, may actually constitute a greater threat to Palestinian interests in that they will placate international opinion, particularly the U.S. administration, and allow the new Israeli government to pursue its objectives without censure and with the help of massive financial aid and guarantees.

In granting the \$10 billion loan guarantees with few real restric-

tions on Mr. Rabin, the Bush administration effectively shifted U.S. policy from its "settlements-are-an-obstacle-to-peace" position, to advocating a Palestinian compromise to meet Mr. Rabin's "concessions." This essentially aligned U.S. policy with Israel's disingenuous assertions that only it is "risking" anything through compromise, and that only it is doing the "giving," whilst Palestinians have "nothing to lose" and only stand to gain from agreeing to Israel's proposals.

In reality, the amount of land and resources a Palestinian compromise along these lines would entail giving up makes it inconceivable that the Palestinians could ever come close to meeting Israel's position.

Through the continuation of establishing "facts-on-the-ground," Mr. Rabin likely perceives that he is strengthening Israel's position that the extent of the Jewish presence in the occupied territories necessitates the recognition by the Palestinians of the settlers' right to remain in place. But recently, some political forces in Israel, such as Peace Now, have started a campaign to reveal the true extent of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories in an attempt to pressure the Israeli government to forward a more realistic solution. They point out that whilst the government tries to make out that the extent of Jewish settlement is irreversible, the reality is that "the Jewish settlements are in fact small, and the majority of them (107 out of 144 - excluding East Jerusalem) have a population of less than 500; furthermore, 27 Jewish settlements have a population of less than 100 settlers."

Peace Now claims the Palestinians represent 94 per cent of the population of the occupied territories, and the settlers a tiny six per cent minority. They maintain that despite the closing off of over 65 per cent of the land of the occupied territories, the settlements themselves represent a tiny percentage of the land, and these facts taken together mean the situation is reversible.

This is reinforced by the fact that Peace Now estimates over 60 per cent of the Jewish population moved to the settlements out of economic necessity, not for ideological reasons, and will move back again if the Israeli government creates the right economic incentives.

Though it should be stressed

that this position excludes any consideration of the status of Jerusalem, and the extensive and ceaseless drive to Judaise the city which continues to be central to the concerns of all Arab parties to the negotiations.

It is the control of the land which is at the heart of the dispute; without giving the Palestinian people control of their land, Israel is offering them nothing. At present, it appears that in the absence of a forced agreement there is no chance of Israel advancing a solution which would give the Palestinians anything close to sovereignty over even the less than one-third of historic Palestine, which the West Bank and Gaza represent.

The U.S. has shown no inclination to apply the sort of pressure on Israel which is necessary. On the contrary, since the election of Mr. Rabin and Labour in Israel, the U.S. and Israeli positions appear to have once again moved into harmony, and the only pressure is likely to be on the Palestinians to accept less than their minimum demands.

The risks inherent in the Palestinians' willingness to continue negotiating without securing any new binding guarantees regarding the future status of their land, including Jerusalem, are very clear. The Palestinians' perseverance with the peace process under these conditions is in itself a massive concession and an indication as to the desperate nature of the Palestinians' desire for peace.

These calling for an active U.S. involvement in the negotiations need to be aware that the factors which would likely determine U.S. policy will not necessarily be "justice" or "legitimacy," as they invariably and sadly are not in the real world of international relations.

Rather, the determining factors will likely be the regional balance of power and strategic and political interest; and the Palestinian case, with the full backing of the other Arab parties, will have to be made very strongly in these terms. The use of the evidence advanced by Peace Now regarding the minimal Jewish presence in the occupied territories is one tactic which can be employed to discredit the Israeli position; reiterating the point that, ultimately, security comes through peace is another.

The road to peace will open up only once there exists a political will for peace, and for all that peace entails, in Israel. There needs to be an Israeli perception of the political and strategic necessity for peace and the benefits it will bring to Israel. Ultimately, if Israel decides there will be peace, then there will be. If it decides there will be an end to settlement and a return of Palestinians' land, then there will be.

The writer is a British national who resides in Jordan.

Kuwait parliament

'Heading for self-destruction'

By Leslie Plummer

KUWAITI politics are nothing short of a cliffhanger. Questioning, criticising, summoning public figures for a grilling at committees of inquiry — the new parliament, only five months into its four-year term, has the country in a state of suspense. Can this assembly, Kuwaitis wonder, possibly last?

For the moment, yes. "Kuwait's democracy is vital in this region," says a Near Eastern diplomat, and, adds a Kuwaiti writer: "This parliament has a superpower behind it." More important, it has yet to lose public support or seriously alienate the ruling Al Sabah family.

But it cannot take these factors for granted. The public becomes uneasy at imbalances and extremes; the Sabah must have known they had much popular backing when in 1986 they dissolved an assembly that homed in hard on certain family ministers. And Khalidoun Al Nageeb, probably the country's most influential sociologist, argues that "the United States will never force democracy if it destabilises the Sabah".

Some, including Sulaiman Mutawa, the former planning minister, predict that the assembly will back off.

Some believe that if parliamentary exuberance turns into an outright clash, the Sabah might instead dissolve and reconstitute the appointed cabinet which they dominate. Others, like Dr. Nageeb, see the assembly "heading for political self-destruction".

All the main issues parliament is exploring are contentious. It is investigating what happened to 17 billion in Kuwaiti investments in Spain, a financial scandal in the state oil-tanker company, the reasons for the state's instant collapse during the Iraqi invasion, and the non-payment of massive debts to the nation's banks.

It is also confronted with the spectre of a contraction in one of the world's most all-embracing welfare states, now in deficit.

"The merchants, the middle class, the new middle class — everyone wants to increase his share of a shrinking cake. It's hard to take away benefits once people are used to them. If the political system doesn't settle, all these issues are moving to confrontation," Dr. Nageeb warns.

If that confrontation is averted, one of the reasons will be that the Sabah are responding to the public mood, and the message of the

election, by pursuing what is being described as a "cabinet policy of appeasement" with parliament. So much so, indeed, that the chief criticism of ministers at present is that they are not setting out a strong programme for parliamentary consideration.

The family has also put together a cabinet that includes six MPs — more than ever before. This concession is having the effect of linking the executive better to parliament, while taming some erstwhile opposition members who now hold portfolios.

The 60-man assembly is made up of 10 Sabah appointees and 50 elected members, chosen by the 81,400 male voters aged over 21 who hail from the 650,000 "first-class" citizens who can trace their family origins back to the 1920s.

Of these MPs, about 35 are seen as roughly in the categories of independent, and opposition, though in Kuwait's case the latter term is only a rough approximation of Western versions, the opposition not necessarily being bent on defeating the government and alliances being prone to change.

Even so, this election result is reported to have startled the ruling family, which is why it is keeping its collective head down.

One Western diplomat notes that the potential for Sabah coalitions in the assembly — with some of the 15 supporters of Sunni Islamic groups, for instance — is an argument against those who foresee Armageddon.

What happens next? If the system is to be preserved, compromise both from the cabinet and assembly.

If the parliamentary inquiries prove improper, MPs will have to decide how far to press retribution, and the Sabah will have to decide whether to sacrifice some among them.

The public wants answers, but not violent vendettas. When it tires of inquiries — "We have become experts at committees," sighs one political scientist — it will want its representatives to concentrate more on looking ahead with constructive legislation tackling root problems and formalising foreign-investment guidelines.

Mr. Mutawa believes the system will survive: "Whatever our shortcomings — and I have never been backward in pointing them out — in the context of the region's political development we are still streets ahead."

The Guardian

One year into war.

Bosnians eager for peace

By Laurinda Keys
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO — After nearly a year of war and recent strategic losses near Sarajevo, Bosnia's Muslim leaders appear eager for peace.

They seem to be counting on the United States and the United Nations to win politically what they cannot win on the battlefield.

Government leaders feel U.S. involvement in Bosnia, both through aid and in talks, is a sign of world recognition of their independent state. Their message now is that's what they wanted all along, and the rest is details.

Yet with rebel Serbs in control of 70 per cent of Bosnia, it is not clear whether agreement on the details — including boundaries for dividing the nation into provinces — can be reached. And it is far from certain whether Washington will be as deeply involved as the government expects.

"There are all kinds of pressures on us," acknowledged Eljup Ganic, a member of the Bosnian presidency. "We want to finish this war. We don't want our children and grandchildren to fight it over and over again to eternity."

For the government, finishing a war that has killed at least 18,000 and forced millions from their homes no longer seems to mean regaining the land seized by Serb rebels.

The government claimed in a recent statement that "after one year of war, nobody is the military winner and nobody is a military loser."

After Geneva peace talks broke down a month ago, President Alija Izetbegovic declared he would not agree to any peace plan that would bar Muslim victims of Serb "ethnic cleansing" campaigns from returning to their homes.

The government now is not addressing the issue directly, apparently leaving some room for bargaining. That is a striking change in emphasis.

The government also wants rebel Serb tanks, cannon and rockets under tight U.N. control. That could be a recipe for a cease fire, but not necessarily for a political solution.

In neighbouring Croatia, Serb arms were placed under U.N. control but no steps were taken to deal with the one third of Croatia that remained in Serb hands. A year-long truce broke down in January after the government launched an offensive to regain the land.

The Bosnian military, which has opposed any concessions and demanded a unified Bosnia, apparently agrees with the government's softer approach.

Army second-in-command Jovan Divjak said in an interview he expected the fighting to be over by May, even if the political problems remain.

Mr. Divjak acknowledged a terrible loss of life — but gave no numbers — when Serbs pushed his troops back in Sarajevo's western suburbs. Serbs gained about 700 metres of territory, but haven't moved in to occupy it.

They apparently don't need to. They dealt government forces a psychological blow and positioned themselves for further strategic gains.

Instead, many government officials have latched onto U.S. aid and involvement in negotiations through President Bill Clinton's appointment of a special envoy as a sign that the world is on their side.

They also have taken comfort from the U.N. Security Council decision to establish a war crimes tribunal to try those accused of atrocities in former Yugoslavia.

"The Americans will be responsible ... for negotiations in which they take part," said Mr. Ganic.

U.S. officials may differ. "We're certainly not going to take over the negotiations," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday. "We regard our role as bringing our good offices to bear, playing a constructive role, but we will not necessarily be at the table."

But while Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic recently has sounded a moderate tone, the key issue for him remains the provincial boundaries.

Mr. Karadzic needs a corridor across northern Bosnia to the Serb-held town of Banja Luka to keep Serb held areas connected and supplied from Serbia, the dominant republic in Yugoslavia.

Hamas denies rejecting U.S. plan

(Continued from page 1)

severe headache. Hamas would prolong discussions to no end and the current decision-making system would be thrown into total disarray," said a PLO official speaking on condition of anonymity from Tunis.

PLO officials acknowledge that the PLO would like to have Hamas join its fold before a final settlement is reached with the Israelis. "This is necessary so that it will be binding on all parties," said one Palestinian analyst in Amman.

Hamas, however, may be trying to avoid precisely that. "A few months back Hamas was making serious efforts to enter the PNC. Now the issue is on the back burner," said a Palestinian analyst close to Hamas. "Now the political strategy of Hamas is to stay outside of the peace process."

"If it fails, then they will say that their predictions have been correct and if there is peace they will not be held responsible for the concessions that the PLO made to Israel," said the analyst. "In other words the Hamas strategy at this stage is to have the best of both worlds," he said.

Jordan surprised by U.S. advisory

(Continued from page 1)

by the Jordan Times Tuesday were also puzzled by the warning. "I never felt threatened in Jordan. I didn't in the past and I don't now," said an American resident of Amman who asked not to be named.

Saying he did not feel anything unusual in the country, he said "I am bewildered and disturbed" at the warning.

He and another American who talked to the Jordan Times said they need more information on

Hamas' diplomatic contacts with the Amman-based ambassadors of Italy, Britain and Germany in February was only to confirm that "Hamas is not a terrorist organisation," Mr. Nazal said.

Mr. Nazal had met on two separate occasions with an Amman-based U.S. diplomat, Eric Gaudiosi, after the expellee crisis began.

"We met twice with Mr. Gaudiosi, once in December and once in January. At that time he spoke to us of linking a commitment on human rights issues and the U.S. proposal to Israel which would allow for the return of a sizeable number of Palestinians expelled since 1967," Mr. Nazal said.

"We wanted to express our opposition to the concept of gradual return of the expellees and we wanted to lobby against the use of term terrorist when referring to our organisation," he said.

The diplomatic missions of the U.S., Canada, Russia, China and Japan told Hamas that their ambassadors would not be able to meet with them for different reasons, Mr. Nazal said. The French embassy did not respond to a Hamas' request to meet with the ambassador.

Palestinian, settler killed

(Continued from page 1)

Arab conflict would bring an end to the violence. Rightists demanded stronger measures against Arabs.

Mr. Rabin told reporters: "We must recognise that if there is a solution, it is first of all the political negotiations."

Binyamin Netanyahu, contender for leadership of the Likud Party, said if Israel withdrew from Gaza in response to violence, its perpetrators would be encouraged to continue their actions to achieve further concessions.

Housing Minister Benjamin Eliezer said Israel found it necessary to close off Gaza to calm the atmosphere but was aware of the social consequences.

"The extended closure means more despair... more poverty," he said. "Believe me, with all the pain, I know of no ideology in the world that provided an answer to someone who is dying of hunger or who cannot bring food to his children."

The stabbing suspect, apprehended at the site after knifing 11 people Monday near Tel Aviv's central bus station, is a 19-year-old from Gaza City's Zaitoun quarter, identified by police as Ziad Salameh Silmi.

Wielding two knives, Silmi ramaged through a commercial area during morning rush hour. He fatally stabbed Natan Azariya, a 28-year-old barber, and a Russian immigrant, Gregory Adamov, 27. Both were buried

Tuesday.

Nine other people were wounded, including a woman who was still in the intensive care unit of Ichilov hospital Tuesday morning, officials said.

Police said they believe Silmi acted alone and quoted him as saying he staged the attack because he could not find work in Israel. He had no record of security offences, but Palestinians said he was a member of the Islamic Jihad group.

The group claimed responsibility in a statement issued in Damascus.

The seaside strip, stuffed with ramshackle refugee camps, is home to about 800,000 Palestinians. It has been a hotbed of the five-year Palestinian uprising, and tensions have run especially high since Israel expelled some 400 Palestinians to Lebanon in December.

The Arab League condemned the siege of Gaza and urged the international community to take measures to protect the Palestinians there.

The 21-member organisation expressed deep concern over the recent escalation of violence in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"The Arab League condemns Israel's repressive actions in the occupied territories, including the sealing off of the Gaza Strip, and urges the international community to take immediate measures to protect the Palestinians living under occupation and to send fact-finding missions," the Cairo-based league said in a statement.

Shells land near exiles' camp

(Continued from page 1)

"This testifies that the (expulsion) of physicians, professors, students and clergymen will not provide security for the Israeli people," commented Dr. Rantisi. "The killing of innocent Palestinians will absolutely motivate the killing of Israelis," he added.

First fights erupted between villagers and Hizbollah members in three southern villages over the use by guerrillas of population centres as a launching pad for

attack against Israel.

Police said civilians in Majdal Salim, Khirbit Salim and Sultaniyeh attacked Hizbollah members after their villages were shelled Monday from batteries deployed in the "security zone" to avenge a guerrilla attack.

A police spokesman said: "Dozens of angry villagers took to the streets shouting insults at Hizbollah members and demanding that they stop using their villages as launching theatres for attacks against the security zone."

Somalis inch towards peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

Kismayu were unable to distribute aid for a second straight day because of the unrest.

Previous fighting between Gen. Morgan and Col. Jess scuttled preliminary peace talks in January but planning has started for a full peace conference to begin March 15 in Ethiopia.

At peace talks scheduled in Mogadishu on Tuesday, representatives of Somalia's factions

were to discuss a plan to disarm under U.N. supervision and 15 groups had turned in lists of their weapons to coalition leaders.

Marine Col. Peter Botto, chairman of the ceasefire committee, said the factions are eager to comply in order to present themselves as political groups and not warlords at the peace talks in Ethiopia.

"Some of the lists are exaggerated to try to play up their importance," Col. Botto said. "But nobody wants to be the last guy."

Iran buying up ex-Soviet nuclear stores

(Continued from page 1)

the Gulf war, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicaragua, quoted Akbar Torkan as saying in an interview Monday that Iran's weapons purchases were dwarfed by regional countries like Saudi Ara-

bia.

Mr. Torkan said Iran planned to spend only \$850 million in the next 12 months, and that Saudi Arabia, whose population was only one-fourth of Iran's had a much larger defence budget.

Fertility rates dropping as women insist on contraception

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the developing world fertility rates are dropping, and at least half of all married women outside Africa say they don't want another child, according to new studies.

While world population growth is still a big concern, most countries in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced significant declines in births over the last 30 years, the studies show.

Overall, surveys of more than 300,000 women in 44 developing countries show that fertility has

declined from an average of six children per woman in the 1960s to four today.

The surveys also show a bigger than expected demand among women for birth control.

"A reproductive revolution is spreading across much of the developing world," says a study being released this week by Johns Hopkins University's population information programme. It says awareness of contraception is now nearly universal and use of condoms and other birth control methods is rapidly rising.

"But there is still a long way to go," the report says, noting that surveys show about 20 per cent of Third World women would like to

avoid pregnancy but are not using birth control.

Though dramatic, the declining fertility rates are still well above the level of 2.1 children per family needed to stop rapid world population growth.

"Fertility has fallen over a much shorter period of time than experts predicted, but an average of four children is still twice the replacement rate," said Bryant Robey, principle author of the Johns Hopkins report.

World population is increasing and headed for 6 billion. United Nations projections show 97 million more people a year until the year 2000.

"The problem is that while

each mother is having fewer children, there are more mothers," Mr. Robey said in an interview.

"If the (fertility) rate hadn't fallen, we'd really be in a boom."

Recent surveys taken with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding show African women, too, want to prevent births, Mr. Robey said.

"People used to say and believe that Africa was somehow different and fertility wasn't

going to decline in Africa," Mr. Robey said. But the new surveys show significant declines in Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

In Africa, most women want to postpone their next pregnancy, while statistical projections in other countries show more want to stop having children altogether, the surveys show.

They also show that about one third of women in the developing world are using modern family planning methods.

A U.S. Commerce Department report released last week points to the same fertility trends and it also notes rises in life expectancy throughout much of the Third World as health effort improve.

The report, "Population and Health Transitions," says man- nations are in a healthy "demographic transition," with the adult working population growing more rapidly than the number of babies being born.

Forty years later

Stalin haunts Russia

By Larry Ryckman
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — For more than 12 hours, the dictator lay crumpled on the floor of the darkened dining room in his pajamas, unable to move or cry for help, a copy of Pravda beside him and a bottle of mineral water on the table above. There was a look of horror in his eyes when servants finally found him.

Josef Stalin, hailed as the genius of the nation, the father of the homeland and the immortal genius, was dying of a brain hemorrhage.

The shocked Soviet people sat by their radios waiting for word about the man who had ruled their lives for three decades and who, unknown to them, now lay hostage to the cruel system he created.

Forty years after his death on March 5, 1953, Russians are torn about the man who sent millions to their deaths and bullied his backward country into becoming a superpower.

For the former Soviet Union, Stalin is an open wound. Ethnic peoples he pulled together through force, terror and mass deportations now try to reclaim old lands and settle old scores through warfare that has killed thousands since the federation came apart in 1991.

Stalin's final hours at his dacha outside Moscow were a fitting testament to his tyranny. No one knew he had been stricken because his terrified servants dared not enter his chambers uninvited.

His usual doctors were in prison and his Communist colleagues initially insisted their comrade, 73 year old leader was merely sleeping soundly.

His countrymen were overcome with grief when Moscow radio finally announced: "The heart of Lenin's comrade in arms... has ceased to beat." Thirty-gun salutes boomed in the capitals of the republics he had yoked

together and ruled for a generation.

Millions of mourners filled the streets of cities across the nation. Hundreds of Muscovites were crushed to death in the funeral hysteria. Many people worried whether his death had left the Soviet Union easy prey for the West.

"When I heard about Stalin's death, I immediately thought the country would fall apart. I believed it," said Yuri Ruskay, a 66-year-old veteran of World War II. "I think it was mentioned that Stalin himself said once: 'After I die, they will seize you like kittens.'"

Stalin's grandson, Alexander Burdonsky, was taken as an 11-year-old to Moscow's hall of columns, where the body lay in state.

"I felt no sorrow, but fear probably, fear and bewilderment that so many people were in the hall and all were crying," Mr. Burdonsky said in an interview.

"I didn't cry. In fact, I couldn't press a tear out of my eyes, which added to my fear and bewilderment."

For the heirs to Stalin's power, there was more relief than grief that his reign of terror was over.

After a time, they quietly began to stamp out his "cult of personality." They stripped Stalin's name from factories, ships, cities, farms and streets, and pulled down monuments throughout the land. On Oct. 31, 1961, they removed his body from the Red Square mausoleum he had shared with Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin and buried it nearby along the Kremlin Wall.

De-Stalinisation stalled under Leonid Brezhnev, whose regime pointed with pride to Stalin's accomplishments: the forging of the Soviet empire, victory over Nazi Germany, mass industrialisation and development of the atomic bomb.

Anniversaries of his death were observed quietly, with few daring to say anything about him except in his native Georgia, where Stalin's memory was often praised.

Mikhail Gorbachev renewed the rehabilitation of Stalin's victims that was begun by Nikita S. Khrushchev and declared that the dictator had perverted the ideas of Lenin.

Bringing up the dictator's name in public now stirs the same kind of passion that was felt in the United States about Vietnam in the 1960s. Everyone has an opinion.

A near-riot broke out when Grigory Ivanov, a 70 year old veteran standing on crutches outside the Lenin Museum, said to a Western reporter: "I didn't believe Stalin, even before the war."

"Who were you not to believe him?" screamed two old women, shouting towards Mr. Ivanov as an increasingly hostile crowd spilled off the sidewalk. "The Germans should have killed you, you traitor, traitor, you brainless traitor."

Many Russians, bewildered by the dizzying changes and chaos since the Soviet Union collapsed, long for a strong leader in Stalin's mold — someone to fix the economy, fight crime and stop ethnic violence.

Day and day, hard-liners seem to gain strength at the expense of reformers led by President Boris Yeltsin. Hand held portraits of Stalin were prominent at an anti-Yeltsin rally of more than 10,000 Muscovites.

"The 40th anniversary of Stalin's death reminds us quite vividly that Stalin is still with us," said Mr. Yeltsin's military adviser, retired Gen. Dmitry Volkogonov.

"We must be vigilant. Nationalists and pseudopatriots and Communists, who are now becoming united, represent a great threat to our country. And I don't exclude the possibility of a reign of terror."

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No. 4

Drawing of March. 2, 1993

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 67388 Wins JD 30,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,200 each wins JD 120 77388 68388 67488 67398 67389 57388 66388 67288 67378 67387
Holder of ticket No. 30886 Wins JD 7,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 700 each wins JD 70 40886 31886 30986 30896 30887 20886 39886 30786 30876 30885
Holder of ticket No. 09444 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 19444 00444 09544 09454 09445 99444 08444 09344 09434 09443
Holder of ticket No. 30249 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 40249 31249 30349 30259 30240 20249 39249 30149 30239 30248
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Holder of ticket No. 24714 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10 34714 25714 24814 24724 24715 14714 23714 24614 24704 24713
Holder of ticket No. 66432 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 76432 67432 66532 66442 66433 56432 65432 66332 66422 66431
Holder of ticket No. 62999 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 72999 63999 62099 62909 62990 52999 61999 62899 62989 62998

Ticket numbers 67249 90504 79962 18621	Win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers 46624 84812 39141	Win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

2030 1745 5823 Win JD 50 each	3133 8298 3861 Win JD 20 each 4561 1579
7401 1574 7796 Win JD 10 each 5964 9942	872 354 069 508 Win JD 5 each
52 Win JD 3 each	10,000 ticket ending with 7 Win JD 2 each

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Basim Sader Amman - Officer Amman - Engineer Zayza - Employee Ramtha - Merchant Half second JD 3,500 Half third JD 1,500 Half fourth JD 1,200 Half fifth JD 1,000 Half sixth JD 800 Half seventh JD 600 Half eighth JD 400 Half ninth JD 300 Half tenth JD 200

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

AVIS

Kasparov, Anand lead chess tournament

VARESE (R) — World champion Garry Kasparov consolidated his position as joint leader of the Linares Grandmaster Chess Tournament Monday with an emphatic win against Russian Geny Barceev in 34 moves.

Kasparov, playing white, surprised his opponent with the unusual tactic of advancing his bishop to the second move, frustrating Barceev's plans of careful preparation by move.

Although Barceev managed to reach an equal position, he ran out of time, and rushed his 31st and 32nd moves.

Kasparov encircled Barceev's king with a queen and bishop, and faced with unavoidable checkmate, Barceev resigned.

Kasparov's fellow competitors were qualified for the world championship's performance. "It was the most impressive game, it was a good win," said chess grandmaster Jan Timman.

"I have seen better games, but I don't always come beautifully," Indian star Viswanathan Anand added.

Anand, who beat Boris Gelfand in 40 moves, and outsider Alexander Belyavsky are sharing a lead with Kasparov on three and a half points from five games.

Anand sacrificed a piece on his 11th move in return for a strong



Garry Kasparov

attack. Belyavsky could find nothing better than giving up a rook and trying unsuccessfully to draw.

Belyavsky, 39 and ranked 42 in the world, beat 7th-ranked Latvian Alexei Shirov, 20, in 52 moves.

Ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov slipped behind the leaders when he failed to beat tailender Vassily Ivanchuk. A draw was agreed after 42 moves.

Ex-Soviet Prodigy Gata Kamsky, 18, moved up the table with a win against Jan Timman in 50 moves after the Dutchman blundered and lost a pawn. He and Karpov now have three points from five games.

Artur Yusupov drew with fellow Russian Vladimir Kramnik and Yugoslav Ljubomir Ljubojevic adjourned after six hours' play against Russian Valery Salov in a knight endgame.

Ljubojevic, who has two extra pawns, is expected to win when play resumes Wednesday.

Gilbert wins, Forget eliminated

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Brad Gilbert, the oldest player in the \$1.7 million Champions Cup, rallied for a 6-7, 6-2, 7-6 victory over ninth-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain Monday in a first-round match.

Gilbert, 31, who will represent the United States in a first-round Davis Cup match against Australia in Melbourne later this month, won the third-set tiebreaker 7-4 to complete the 2-hour, 39-minute match.

Gilbert won the first five games of the match, but Bruguera won the next five and ultimately, the Spaniard won the first set tiebreaker 7-3.

The second set was tied 2-2 before Gilbert swept four straight games without losing a point to even the match.

Bruguera won the first four games of the third set before Gilbert won the next five. Bruguera won two of the next three, setting up the tiebreaker.

"It was a strange match," Gilbert said. "He was complaining every game about line calls. I kept fighting back. Never in my career have I lost a set when I was up 5-0."

None of the other top 10 seeds played Monday. Guy Forget of France, seeded 11th, was also upset, losing to Jim Grabb 6-3, 3-6.

The other two seeded players in action Monday both won 13-set matches. Maliva Washington beat qualifier Patrick Rafter of Australia 7-5, 7-5, and 16th seeded Arnaud Boesoch of France outlasted Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Fourteen of the top 10 players in the world are competing in the tournament at the Grand Champions Resort. Top seeded Jim Courier, ranked No. 1 in the world, faces David Wheaton in a second-round match. Wheaton advanced by beating qualifier Alex O'Brien 6-1, 7-5 Monday.

Second-seeded Pete Sampras, fifth seeded Peter Korda of Czechoslovakia, sixth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, seventh-seeded Andre Agassi and eighth seeded Michael Stich of Germany all wait until Wednesday before making their tournament debuts in second-round matches.

In other first-round matches Monday, Todd Martin defeated Wayne Black of Zimbabwe 7-6, 6-0 Carl Uwe Steeb of Germany eliminated Tomas Carbonell of Spain 6-0, 3-6, 7-6; Jakod Hlasek of Switzerland outlasted Cedric Pioline of France 6-7, 7-6, 7-5; Richey Reneberg topped Jordi Arrese of Spain 7-5, 7-5; Luis Mattar of Brazil beat Robbie Weiss 6-3, 6-4; Jaime Yzaga of Peru rallied to defeat Stefano Pescosolido of Italy 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; Francisco Claver of Spain overpowered Gabriel Markus of Argentina 6-3, 6-2.

The tournament runs through Sunday. The singles champion will earn \$235,000 and the runner up will get \$123,000.

World Youth Soccer Championship Russians hit by extra jet lag; Americans confident

SYDNEY (AP) — A revamped Russian team will have to contend with extra jet lag as it prepares for its opening match Saturday against Cameroon in the World Youth Soccer Championship.

The Russian squad was due to arrive in Australia Tuesday but missed a connecting flight in Singapore. The team will now fly into Sydney, en route to Canberra, Wednesday morning.

Russia, one of Australia's Group A opponents in the tournament, will have just over 72 hours to acclimatize and prepare for its first match against Cameroon in Australia's federal capital.

Australia plays Russia at the Sydney Football Stadium next Monday. The host team will be keen to avenge defeat by the then Soviet Union in the playoff for third place at the last youth championship in Portugal in 1990.

The delay could severely disadvantage the Russians, who will be playing out of season in relatively hot temperatures. They will also be without some of the players who helped them clinch a berth in the final 16.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent breakup of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) resulted in a

number of star Ukrainian players having to withdraw from the squad to play in Australia.

Russia is the only side still to arrive for the championship which gets under way Friday when Australia plays Colombia at the Sydney Football Stadium.

European champion Turkey was greeted by 600 members of Melbourne's Turkish community Tuesday, while the strong English side arrived on the same flight.

England is at full strength for the tournament and will parade six players with Premier League experience. But coach David Burnside was cautious in assessing the side's chances.

"I can't understand why people consider us to be one of the favorites," he said. Burnside said he feels the team's lack of experience playing as a unit will negate the influence of a number of big name players such as Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Nick Barmby.

England and Turkey are expected to fight out Group C, but United States coach Bobby Howe warned not to underestimate his side's chances in the Melbourne Group.

Soon after arriving Tuesday, Howe promised his side would not be overawed by the Europeans.

The former West Ham star said his team of underdogs has come to Australia with the aim of reaching the quarter finals.

"If any team in the group thinks we're going to be pushovers, then they will have to think again," Howe said. "We're very fit, extremely competitive, not tactically naive, and I think quite skilful."

"We'll surprise a few people, that's our intention." The other member of Group C, South Korea, also arrived in Melbourne Tuesday, confident of causing an upset.

The talented Korean side gained valuable experience under Australian conditions in last month's international challenge and has been reinforced with a number of key players.

Coach Sang In Park expects Brazil, rather than pool opponents Turkey and England, to be the team to beat in the championship.

Two of Brazil's opponents, Mexico and Saudi Arabia, arrived in Adelaide Tuesday. They will join Norway in trying to upset the South Americans in Group D.

Group B teams, playing in Brisbane, are Portugal, winner of the past two world youth championships, Uruguay, former champions Germany and Ghana.

All-Star Tournament begins today

By Aileen Paanayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's second All-Star Tournament, organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) begins Wednesday at Al Orthodox Court.

Players in this year's Oki All-Star Tournament represent all but one of the Kingdom's First Division teams. Al Ahli Club last week announced that players of their First Division team would not participate in the All-Star Tournament, as the JBF has not yet resolved their First Division title match controversy of Jan. 26. The club however urged their under-22 players to take part so as not to disrupt the under-22 national team's preparations for the Asian Championship in April.

Participating players had been initially divided to five teams. However, when one of the sponsors pulled out of the tournament and Al Ahli stood by their decision, the number of teams was brought down to four.

The Daihatsu team, which groups the under-22 national team will be coached by the JBF's Russian coach. Players include Al Orthodox's Mun-



Fans will miss stars like Al Ahli's Marwan Ma'touq, taser Abul Tayyeb, and Ziyad Al Nabulsi; Al Ahli's Mohammad Al Shamali, and Marwan Al Saedi; and Al Jazireh's Ghaith Ennabi and Anwar Haddad.

Mohammad Al Najjar will be the Toyota team coach. The team will greatly benefit from Jordan's undisputed basketball star Murad Barakat.

The Mitsubishi team includes Al Orthodox's star Hilal Barakat as well as Al Ahli's Walid Badran and Al Watani's Nadim Nahhas and Hani Al Taher.

Fadi Al Sabbah will be the Hyundai team coach. The team includes mostly young players like Al Orthodox's Jihad Saliba and Jan Sahlieh, Al Jazireh's Munzer Muheisen, and Homentmen's Vicken Avakian.

The matches will all be played at 8.30 p.m. The tournament will run up to March 22.



Murad Barakat

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAYYAB KASHCH

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ON THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
A 7 6
A 10 6 5
K Q 8 5 3
6

EAST
Q J 3 2
J 9 3 2
A 9 7
K 10 9 3 2 A J 8 7

SOUTH
K 8 5
K Q 8 4
J 10 4 2
Q 5 4

three diamonds. Obviously, North needed no further urging. West led a spade, taken in the closed hand with the king. Since the game was cold with a reasonable trump break, declarer started on hearts. When the king and ace revealed the unlikely break, declarer could not afford to draw a third round before knocking out the ace of diamonds. Unfortunately, West won the first diamond lead and gave East a ruff. East underled the ace of clubs, and West had the entry to give East a second diamond ruff—down one.

The bidding:
North East South West
1 Pass 3 Pass
2 Pass 3 Pass
4 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠
Dear Tanna:
We acquire have an advantage going for us—the director makes sure our worst work ends up on the cutting room floor. I am sure that's where South would have liked to consign this hand.

Since responder wasn't sure that the queen of clubs was working or that North had four hearts, South elected to invite game by bidding

Actually, declarer could have made the hand by doing some cutting-of communications, that is, after discovering the 4-1 trump split, declarer should have led a club from dummy. East cannot rise with the ace and return a trump. West, when in with the lead, another club, will be unable to win any other return (a club would be ruffed) and force out the ace of diamonds. With no entry back to the West hand, the defenders can get at most one ruff, and declarer is home.

As ever,
Omar

High-flying Milan confident of European success

LONDON (R) — Italian high fliers AC Milan clash with Portuguese leaders Porto in the European Cup Wednesday, following a perfect preparation match at the weekend.

Milan beat Sampdoria 4-0 Sunday, with two goals from French striker Jean-Pierre Papin and the sort of confidence that has taken them to 56 league matches without defeat and 10 points clear at the top of the first division.

"I saw a very good Milan, taking into account that we were playing a well-organized team..." their coach Fabio Capello said.

For the Porto match in Group B of the semifinal league stage, Capello may be without Dutchman Frank Rijkaard, who suffered an ankle injury and was substituted in the second half of Sunday's game.

If Rijkaard drops out, his place will be taken by Croat Zvonimir Boban, while Dutchman Rudi Gullit and Papin are the other expected selections among the Milan players.

Porto also scored a comfortable win Saturday, 3-0 against Salgueiros, but are bottom of Group B standings with one point from two games against Milan's four. Portuguese newspapers, following Milan's progress, warned

Porto Monday they were up against the best in Europe.

The other Group B clash sees PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands at home to Sweden's IFK Gothenburg.

PSV dropped a point this weekend with a 2-2 draw against lowly FC Den Bosch and also lost goalkeeper Hans Van Breukelen, sent off in the second half with two bookings.

Van Breukelen had only just returned to the side after three weeks out with a hand injury. FSV, who have been dogged by injury in the past few weeks, are looking fitter, with midfielder Erwin Koeman back on the bench and probably ready to play Wednesday. Only striker Jui Ellerman is out after a knee operation last Wednesday.

In Group A, CSKA Moscow go to Berlin to meet Milan's chief challengers Marseille, losing 1991 finalists and hoping to become the first French side to lift the trophy.

With three points from the two games played, Marseille lead the standings ahead of Glasgow Rangers on goal difference. Rangers are away to Belgium's Club Brugge Wednesday.

Brugge escaped an embarrassing home defeat by bottom-



Hans Van Breukelen

ranked Lommel in the Belgian competition. Brugge were trailing 3-1 after an hour but equalised from the penalty spot only seven minutes from time.

Brugge have a host of problems. Defender Pascal Plovie, Hungarian Libero Laszlo Disti and Australian Defender Paul Okon are all unavailable for the clash with injuries, while striker Stephan Van der Heyden, who converted the spot kick Saturday, is suspended.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 3, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Disagreeing openly with others could take away from the harmony and the happiness you have been working to establish within your immediate family and social associates. Don't make waves.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A fixed cut-dog could occur between you and an attachment early in the day but keep poised and later avoid the temptation to run off to new scenes.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can't get a recalcitrant outside associate to go along with your desires early to put off until a better time, later your hunches do not serve you well.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find it difficult to work out a course of action whereby duties are easily rightly done, afterwards you have no better success with an independent partner.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Keep cheerful despite a moody atmosphere from loved ones upset and late sleep clear of tedious tasks that put you in bad humor.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Rise above some trying conditions at your residence, let your family know you appreciate them while afterwards keep away from expensive pleasures.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A day when it will seem to be

almost impossible to live what you actually believe in but keep doing your best and it won't be too hard for you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You feel a lack of the good things of life early but don't push yet for a greater abundance while later it is necessary to use extreme care in motion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You want to let fly unpleasantly in all directions but it would only boomerang on you so use self-control; then stick to a budget already decided upon.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A private anxiety can keep you mulling it over so you are non-productive so busy yourself otherwise, later don't expect friends to do your bidding.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A demanding acquaintance can really cause you problems if around now so slip away from such a person and later you find other issues to be solved.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Keep strictly out of the public eye early or criticism, deserved or not, will be trended towards you; then tonight avoid being a gregarious Aquarius.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Stay where you are and don't go roaming off to new interests during the morning hours while tonight you need to avoid public limelight with eagles.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"I'm trying to change you back into the man I married."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to form four ordinary words.

SAYGS

NACAL

NEEGIN

COABEN

Oh, yeah—what's in it?

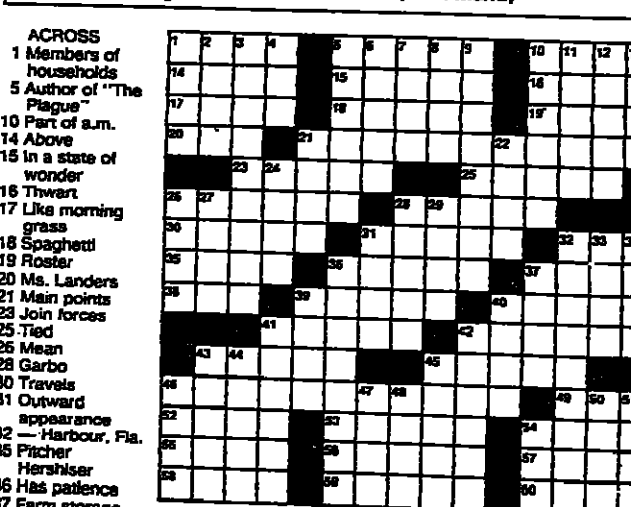
HOW THAT SHREW'D PARROT ACTED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: PANIC SHYLY SYSTEM FINITE
Answer: The sort of backing that's essential for getting a man through life—HIS SPINE

THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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Syrian painter carves a niche in local art scene

By Stephanie Genkin and Curt Ryan

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Carving a niche for Syrian artists in the Amman art scene, the Baladna Gallery is currently featuring the work of Ali Hussein, as the latest in a series of exhibitions.

A native of Aleppo, Mr. Hussein has been exhibiting his abstract art throughout Syria since 1983. Unlike the majority of artists exhibiting in the Amman gallery circuit, he has not received formal training at an art institute.

Instead, his artistic education has been privately acquired. In addition to his experience as a painter, Mr. Hussein is also an illustrator of children's stories. Yet it is his collection of oil paintings that is currently on display at the gallery.

Mr. Hussein's abstract style is consistent throughout the exhibition. However, his focus on a variation of themes lends diversity to the collection.

Relying mainly on the use of oil on canvas, much of the

artist's work experiments with various brush techniques and the introduction of additional media.

All feature liberal use of paint, layered on the surface of the canvas. The manner in which Mr. Hussein applies paint is reminiscent of a stucco surface.

In some works, this is complemented by a dry wash of pure white paint, yielding a speckled effect that gives a frosty quality to the image. In another set of paintings, strips of canvas and other material are added to the surface to produce a very literal three dimensional and textured quality.

ART REVIEW

These techniques are applied throughout Mr. Hussein's four predominant themes. His eye-catching landscapes, cubist-influenced buildings, speckled flowers in vases, and dreamy portraits of an individual woman, together make up the artist's abstract collection.

It is the trio of striking landscapes, however, that immediately captures the

visitor's attention upon arrival to the gallery. The three play upon the illusions that can be created through stucco techniques.

The first, a forest scene, portrays the break of day bursting through a gap in the thick of the treetops. Under-scoring the living quality of fauna, the artist's stucco style produces a series of individual veins of texture and colour, which merge together to form each tree.

In the next landscape, Mr. Hussein incorporates paper mache layers snaking and curving in the foreground to emphasize the rugged quality of a hillside. The thickness of the paint and the additional media make this work amongst the most three-dimensional in the collection.

The last landscape in the series draws on the vein-like images in the trees, grass, and stones. However, by toning down the severity of the stucco technique, the mountains and sky looming in the background appear to be more gentle than the more dramatic elements which dominate the painting.

Tucked away in the corner of the gallery is perhaps Mr.

Hussein's most simple — yet most impressive — work. Painting only the sea and the sky, the artist uses painted canvas on canvas which subtly creates the effect of gentle and realistic waves. One feels the serenity of a calm sea at night, illuminated by a sole fleck of light emanating from a sliver of the moon hanging off-centre in the sky.

While the landscapes are the most captivating works, there is also a considerable number of portraits sprinkled throughout the collection. The same woman is featured in all the portraits, and is painted with a tenderness which leaves the viewer wondering if there is a story behind this series.

When pressed to share the story of these paintings the artist explained that they were simply portraits. Moments later, however, Mr. Hussein smiled, admitting that this woman is in fact soon to be his wife.

In observance of Ramadan, the Baladna Gallery will be open to visitors from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will reopen from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The exhibition will remain open to the public until March 15.



Oil and mixed media on canvas by the Syrian artist Ali Hussein currently on display at the Baladna Gallery

Egypt's earthquake victims still waiting for help

By Katia Sabet

EL AYYAT, Egypt — In this small town, 60 kilometres from Cairo, one might expect to see stone-masons busy at work, scaffolding being erected and building sites springing up everywhere. For El Ayyat was heavily damaged by the earthquake of Oct. 12, which killed 552 people in Egypt nationwide, injured almost 10,000 and left more than 5,000 families homeless. This town was one of the closest to the epicenter of the quake and, on a per capita scale, it suffered the worst damage anywhere in Egypt.

Yet there is little to suggest that emergency work is being done to help the poor, always the first victims. Behind the wall which separates the town's youth club from the main road, stand rows of orange tents, with lines of washing strung between them to dry in the wind. Children play near their canvas homes while women attempt to do their washing in aluminum basins on the ground. Their menfolk stand around glumly, at a loss for what to do.

All around them are the remains of their former homes, some of them in ruins, others evacuated because they are in danger of

collapsing. Further away is a cluster of a hundred or so more tents, smaller and even more basic and tattered than the others. Here, there is no electricity and little in the way of cooking facilities. Human waste is left exposed to the open air and there are just two or three taps for drinking water. "What's going on in El Ayyat?" exclaims Salah Zaki Moustapha, a 50-year-old former railwayman who took early retirement because of a coronary condition. "We've been here, sitting on the bare ground since Oct. 12, that's what is going on. There are more than 500 families living

like this." Salah and others like him claim that almost nothing has been done to alleviate the plight of the earthquake victims, in spite of copious promises made by the authorities.

"No-one has intervened to help us. We've had to make do by ourselves," says Salah. "These 'full meals' they keep talking about on television are just a lot of eyewash. None of us has ever had so much as a sniff of anything to eat, except for what we can scavenge. We've been forbidden to light stoves in the tents and we don't know how to bathe our children. They're dirty and some of them have scabies. We've all been hit by chronic diarrhea and as for the toilets, I'll show them to you if you have the stomach for it."

In his hand Salah holds a tattered length of cotton. Closer inspection reveals it to be an old army blanket, worn to shreds and dyed black. "Look at the blankets they have given us," he says. "Where are the blankets that we're supposed to have been sent from abroad?" A smaller, more timid man interjects: "Every morning I wake up with my face all dirty from the dye which has come off the blanket." A woman approaches and points to a foam mattress no more than 4 cm thick. "Look at the mattresses we're sleeping on," she says. "In order to have

this, plus two threadbare blankets and the tent that is now our home we were forced to sign a receipt for 1500 (Egyptian) pounds (\$452). It takes my husband 10 months to earn that much."

All the occupants of this hastily erected refugee camp are angry that so little has been done to rehouse them or start work on their homes in the months that have passed since the earthquake. But for 24 families it is an especially bitter pill to swallow. These people were joint owners of a six-story apartment block called El Gharib and built by the city council 10 years ago. They each put down a lump sum and were paying off the rest in monthly installments. Now it appears the apartment block may not have been built according to construction codes. Today, the block lies empty. The reinforced concrete pillars which support much of its weight have given way at the base and they crumble at the touch.

"All we are asking is that someone who is honest comes to see what is happening in El Ayyat," says one of a group of women living in the tents. "We are cold. We're having to pay for everything we need. An old man who developed a kidney infection as a result of the poor health conditions here had to spend his savings — 450 Egyptian pounds — on hospital treatment." One child has already died of exposure in this makeshift camp, where the nights can be bitterly cold. The refugees who live here say they are appalled that they are being forced to pay for medical care, most of it made necessary by their living conditions. "At the hospital, we have to buy a 'ticket' in order to be examined, and that costs a pound," says Adel Hafez, a worker. "Then we have to buy the drugs they prescribe for us from the private sector pharmacies. How on earth are we supposed to pay for them?"

"What happened to the millions in aid sent from overseas?" shouts someone else. "If our houses are falling down, if we buy shoddily constructed apartment buildings from the government, it's because we're poor. Here there are no factories and no prospects," says Salah. "They should set up training centres and apprenticeships, turn our young people into specialists and export them abroad. Our youth is our fortune. We mustn't let them



Only two or three water taps are available for hundreds of homeless in El Ayyat, and there are little prospects that life will improve

rot here, with no work and no future. And don't tell me that this is a separate issue because if we were rich and had work, we wouldn't be sleeping in these tents now. Our main problem is the fact that we are poor."

Everyone in the camp criticises the head of the city council, Ahmad Nouredin, who, in turn, defends the way the council has dealt with the disaster. "We are among the worst hit towns. The number of buildings damaged in this region is put at 23,000, more than in all three of the other regions put together. It's going to take time to tackle the situation," he says.

"Here, 170 houses have collapsed but most of the people whose houses have suffered less serious damage have already been able to return home. In the rural areas, we've spent 4 million pounds so far (\$1.2 million). But it is true that for the town of El Ayyat itself, the government is still in the process of deciding what steps to take."

El Ayyat's chief citizen says surveyors have already inspected the damage and submitted reports. A half-million pound deal will soon be signed between the council and a construction com-

pany to repair the damaged buildings, he says. "The repair works will begin in a week and will be finished within a month," predicts Nouredin. "As for the El Gharib apartment block, it has still to be decided whether to repair it or to demolish it. Naturally, if it is demolished the owners will each be given an apartment. Not here in El Ayyat — there is nothing available. It will be in some other town, in El Saff or elsewhere."

Nouredin's words do little to comfort the refugees. They are skeptical that the work on their homes will go ahead fast, and fearful of being sent to live in other towns far from their roots and their families. As winter sets in, Salah, for one, is convinced that life under canvas is something he and his family are going to have to get used to. Salah is a former soldier. He served in the army from 1964 to 1973, during the difficult years of war between Egypt and Israel. "And here I am now," he says bitterly. "Sitting on the bare ground, living with my children in a tent. And the worst thing is, we don't have the slightest hope of getting out of here." — World News Link.

BOOK REVIEWS

Special pleading

International Law and the Administration of Occupied Territories: two decades of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip
Edited by Emma Playfair
Clarendon Press, Oxford 1992, £55

This large, important and expensive work has its origins in an international conference in 1987 about the response of Israel's legal system to the challenge of the occupied territories. The importance of the story the 17 contributors have to tell survives this delay. It is a tale of intellectual corruption.

The first six chapters discuss the framework of international law within which an occupying power is obliged to operate. Central to this are the 1907 Hague Convention and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The Hague Convention speaks in generalities, the Fourth Geneva Convention is highly specific. Both, however, deny the occupier the right to exploit the occupied, whether by imposing new taxes, by dispossession or by the transfer or settlement of residents; and both permit an occupying power to take those steps necessary to safeguard the security of its occupying forces.

Since Israel has in fact raised new taxes, expropriated land, deported Palestinians and created Israeli settlements — all of them beyond its legal competence as an occupying power — its independent judiciary has had to perform two separate operations in order to transform unlawful activity into something Israeli courts can view as legal. The most interesting sections of this book discuss these manipulations. The courts began by diminishing the ambit of international law applicable to the territories. Thus they have, for example, refused to accept that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to the territories, by reading the Convention to mean that it applies only to sovereign territory. Since Egypt and Jordan do not claim "sovereignty" over the Gaza Strip and West Bank, Israel's courts have ruled that Israel is not bound by treaty to apply the Convention. Unfortunately for this argument, the Convention states that it applies to all territory occupied during war, and Israel also refused to apply it to Sinai or the Golan Heights, where Egypt and Syria never refrained from asserting their sovereignty.

This is not the only example of Israel's special pleading. The country's judges could have ruled that, regardless of who enjoyed sovereignty over the occupied territories, the Geneva Convention was automatically applicable, on the basis that it does little more than particularise long established principles of international law, and as such forms part of customary international law. Customary international law is ipso facto part of the internal law of every country. In the eyes of Israel's judges, however, the Geneva Convention is no more than a treaty obligation made between contracting states. That means that until Israel legislates to incorporate the treaty into domestic law, the courts will refuse to recognise it.

Having thus reduced the amount of international law they would recognise, Israel's judges then began to twist what little they might apply to favour the settlers and their state. Emma Playfair itemises this process. For example: The Hague Convention states that the occupier must respect "unless absolutely prevented, the laws in force in the country". In 1981, at a time when over 854 military orders had been issued changing laws previously in force, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that, "actually, 'the prevention' mentioned at the end of Article 43 is not absolute at all... The question is one of the preferable and convenient means..."

The court had further occasion to twist language when it needed to legalise civilian settlements. An occupying power, acting to ensure the security of its own forces, may take temporary control of other people's property. But this is only lawful so long as the reason for expropriation really is one of security. In Israel, however, the courts have stretched the concept of security far beyond its meaning to embrace anything that makes "it easier for the army to carry out its task". Perhaps most shocking of all has been the decision of Israel's courts to redefine the local population whose interests an occupier must serve to include Israeli settlers.

The next section of the book focuses on Israel's administration of the occupied territories. Antonio Cassese describes the duties and powers an occupier has over land and natural resources, and in the next chapter we learn from Ibrahim Matar what this particular occupying power has done to deprive Palestinians of their water. Other topics covered are trade unions rights discussed by John Quigley and Joost Hiltemann; taxation, financial administration and economic policies analysed by Gerhard von Glahn, Hisham Jabr and Hisham Awartani, and the administration of occupied territories examined by Christopher Greenwood and Mona Rishmawi.

The standard of the papers in this important book is uniformly high. It is accessible to the lay reader and deserves to be read widely. However, before a cheaper paperback edition is issued, the editor, who deserves commendation for an immaculate production, should update the collection with a review of the main decisions of the Israeli High Court over the last five years — Middle East International.

Peter Parker

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Govern a great nation as you would cook a small fish — don't overdo it — Confucius, Chinese philosopher (555 B.C.-479 B.C.).

Death is a very dull, dreary affair, and my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it — W. Somerset Maugham, English writer (1874-1965).

That man is richest whose pleasures are the cheapest — Henry David Thoreau, American writer (1817-1862).

'Tis the mind that makes the body rich — William Shakespeare, English playwright (1564-1616).



In the devastated town of El Ayyat, families left homeless after the earthquake in October are still living in tents without cooking facilities, electricity and proper sanitation.

Hazardous to your health?

By Jean-Claude Elias

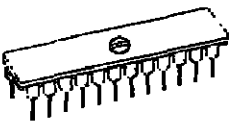
Personal computing has become a household topic discussed in most publications, ranging from children-oriented magazines to business reports. One of the hottest subjects that has got users of PCs — personal computers — concerned is the alleged negative effect of computer games. These games have been accused of being hazardous to the health of all those who have become addicted to them, most particularly children.

A British daily recently asserted that excessive practice of computer games puts such an amount of stress on a young "player" that it can lead him or her to epilepsy. At best it can cause dizziness, stomach pain and migraine. None of these claims so far have been technically proven or confirmed by any official medical source. In last week's issue of the French monthly *Paris-Match*, a well-known neurologist said that these exaggerations are ridiculous and not justified.

Last year, the media was talking about the health hazard that computer monitors put on pregnant women. A study showed a direct link between the number of abortions and the number of hours that pregnant computer operators spent before the small screen. Both the psychosomatic and the physical aspects were considered. It was decided that the first was negligible while the radiation (not radioactive) emitted by the tube — cathode ray tube (CRT) — of the monitor and the electric field generated around it was found guilty. Manufacturers responded with a new type of "low-emission" monitor. Its level of radiation is so low that it can be considered as negligible. Now most north European countries, Scandinavia in particular, forbid the use, manufacturing and import of any monitor that is not of the "low-emission" type. Such a computer screen is three to four times more expensive than the regular one.

Whether physical or not, causing a simple headache or more, it is widely agreed that extended hours of computing do put some kind of stress on the user. It shouldn't come as a surprise and it doesn't take a specialised physician to tell you that six hours in a row in a chair, staring at the PC monitor and typing difficult commands on the keyboard is not as healthy as a nice walk in the mountains in spring. We

chip talk



already know what long hours of TV watching can do. Typists know where their stiff neck comes from. Taxi drivers sitting all day long in their cab know the damage done to their back. Computing is a little of all these plus the mental difficulty involved in communicating with a sophisticated machine.

Suppose you have a one-page letter to write to your friend and try to imagine which scenario would be more relaxing and pleasant. In the first one, you take the pen you always carry in your shirt-pocket, a writing pad and sit at your desk facing the window to start writing. In the second scenario, you switch on the computer, start the word processing programme, try to remember the command that lets you open a new page, then you make some typing mistakes, look for the "spelling check" command, the "save" command, struggle with the printer in the "paper jam" position, and then decide that it is easier to call your friend on the phone.

Naturally, professionals and experienced PC users find it easier to use the machines for they are past the sometimes stressful learning stage. It is also known and agreed, as often discussed in this very column, that there are tasks that are impossible to perform without computers. Computer games on the other end, if practiced for hours, do certainly put a lot of stress on the mind — and the nerves — of the young who feel they are challenging some kind of robots and have to be up to it. PC users will enter their maturity age when they are able to organise their work on the computer and make it efficient, easy and comfortable.

A cry in the dark

By E. Yaghi

When the windows of the soul are closed, there are so many sights that escape the eyes of the would-be beholder, such as the body of the sky torn by the scarlet rays of the setting sun, a morning orchid washed with the dew of night, the wings of eagles beating the blue of day with flight, a furry soft rabbit, the smile of a little baby, the first leaves as they burst forth on trees in spring, or the reflection of the self in an oft-visited mirror. There is no way for one who has lost his or her sight to be able to read expressions on others' faces; are they angry, sad, excited, happy? Our eyes tell us so much about the world around us, and yet, they are one of the countless blessings we tend to take for granted.

Nour was born on Nov. 20, 1970. She lost her sight in an accident when she was just an infant and now recollects, "I don't remember seeing. I have no clear images of anything and when I want to visualise people, I draw them in my imagination."

Her father didn't believe in having a large family, rather he wanted to be able to provide a smaller number of children with a superior education. When Nour was five years old, she went to a private school in the Gulf. Since there was no special school for the handicapped, she attended a kind of institution where the best teachers in the country were employed. They were either educated in America or Egypt and all had their PhDs. The handicapped children were of many different nationalities; and because the number of physically disabled in the Gulf was not many, there was no problem in according them an education. Nour learned Braille in English and the Taylor method in mathematics. The curriculum was not geared for disabled students in the sense of their being handicapped, but for ordinary pupils who must learn the same subjects taught at any quality institution. Nour therefore, learned sciences and attended lab classes and studied the human body. She knows the shape of the kidneys, glands, lungs, etc. She graduated from high school and got her GCE and also sat for the Tawjihi test. In Kuwait, because all her teachers had their doctorates, they spent more time on their pupils than instructors in any other school. Sometimes there were only two students in a class. One time there was only one and that was Nour. The budget of the school allowed the fees to cover the least amount of students in a classroom. Nour graduated as one of the top ten students in Kuwait.

About those close to her, she comments: "My family treats me equally as any other member and my friends are religious and suite me in morals. Not one of them has ever been disloyal to me or betrayed me!"

Perhaps this can be attributed to Nour's magnetic smile and her winning personality. Her friends are devoted to her and there seems to be a special link of love between her and them. In every lecture she can be seen sitting and listening to her professor with a charming smile on her face. Her innocence and purity is stimulating and her determination an inspiration to those gifted with sight. Nour's family considers her a genius and of course, cherish her dearly.

However, Nour says: "When I was in Britain and America for treatment, I was optimistic. I didn't worry about being blind. I had a proper education and was taught how to manage my life and even how to take care of a husband and children as well as myself. But here in Jordan, those who don't know me wonder why I dress well and how can I choose my own colours and attend to myself. I got my education because my father insisted that I have the best. He used to bring private teachers to make up for anything he felt I was missing. But, the whole point is, that here in this country, if there was no money to provide for me, then I as a blind person wouldn't have had the same opportunities that I did. The advantages my father provided me with should have been available to me and all blind children

regardless of the financial state of our parents."

Nour is now a student in the last semester of her senior year at a university in Jordan. But not one professor asks how they could help this girl! Her standard is equal to everyone else and her grades are excellent, nevertheless she does need a little extra attention now and then. America a professor of mine used to read for me or someone else from class to read," says Nour. "He told me that no student should have to pay extra money for education as a handicapped person. He also insisted that I have to know how to manage my own life and that shouldn't depend on a servant. He had confidence in me that I could be like anybody else. I even received a diploma in how to take care of myself, how to walk and avoid barriers. But now I am lost and depressed and feel that I have suppressed those senses that I had learned to develop. I feel that people stare at me because of my disability and no one thinks of me as an individual, but rather something strange or a doll and not a product of myself. They think that because of my father's money, I don't have to worry about the future or the necessity of being independent."

But wait a minute! The most important factor is missing here! Nour may have a handicap but she can still be very productive and should not be thought of as an item to be hidden in a corner, felt sorry for, neglected or ignored. She goes on to say: "My attitude changed when I came back to Jordan because of how people reacted to me. I am not treated by the majority as a human being. I used to be very nice, sensitive and optimistic, but now I get easily depressed, sometimes totally so. I intend to get a Bachelor's degree in English Literature, then my M.A. and after that a PhD. So then what? I can't even trust a person who comes to ask for my hand in marriage. I am obsessed with the fact that if someone marries me, then I will become imprisoned by my darkness!"

People like Nour must be viewed by society not as objects to be pitied, for no one with any integrity enjoys wallowing in such misery. "I don't want anyone to feel sorry for me, but to understand me", Nour states. "I don't want people to avoid upsetting me, for then I really get upset."

Are there facilities for the physically disabled in Jordanian public schools and universities and are professors at personnel taught how to deal with handicapped students? The answer is unfortunately, no. There are no facilities at Nour's opinion, "the professors come to exams having mind their normal students, but they don't consider students such as me. I need a little extra time for an exam because of my situation. One professor even refused to have me in his class because he couldn't be bothered with me! No one went out of his way to teach me my needs as handicapped person."

Our society needs to reevaluate how we perceive the handicapped. Such people must be integrated into the communities when they first begin school so they will learn how to cope with their environment and become productive members of the general public. We cannot ignore handicapped person as if he or she does not exist. We must go out of our way to help make their lives worthwhile and so enhance our own. After all, aren't we all our brother and sister's keeper and members of the same human race? Some of us are more fortunate than others in one way or another, but the more fortunate should dedicate part of their lives, income or time to the less fortunate, helping to make our country and world a better place in which to live.

Nour is a very intelligent girl who should be recognised and treated as such. She has much wisdom to share with those who pay attention to her. Her courage is admirable and uplifting. It is indeed sad that she concludes, "the only thing I know is that with my father's money, I can buy everything in this society, even the people!"

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

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AMA

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Wed

8:30

Uncle

Buck

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Pl:

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Miles

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abused

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9:10

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Harriet

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10:30

News

In

English

10:30

Feature

Film

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The

Old

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And

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fisherman

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boat.

Friday, March 5

8:30

Billy

Mary

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9:10

E.N.G.

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gangster

who

comes

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with

his

evil

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after

being

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abroad.

10:00

News

In

English

10:20

Columbo

Columbo

investigates

the

crimes

committed

by

a

deputy

police

chief

and

his

neighbor.

Saturday, March 6

8:30

America's

Funniest

Home

Videos

9:00

Perspective

9:30

Science

Workshop

This

documentary

episode

deals

with

the

evolution

of

the

very

fast

train

industry

in

Germany,

and

the

overcom-

ing

of

sound

and

atmospheric

problems.

10:00

News

In

English

10:20

Bestseller

—

An

American

Love

Part

Two

Monday, March 8

8:30

Step

By

Step

Frank

The prying game — the familiar face of British actress Miranda Richardson

By Hillel Italie
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Miranda Richardson is beginning to learn about the prying game.

"People see me in Manhattan and come up to me in department stores," said the British actress, whose three current films include the surprise hit *The Crying Game*.

"In Greenwich Village, they go, 'great movie' in Saks, they say, 'sorry to do this to you, but can I just say something to you?' And then they go away. I don't mind. It depends what mood you're in and how people do it. They've been very charming here."

Two years ago, she could have worn her name in golden letters around her neck and passed by undisturbed, at worst being asked if she was related to that other British star, Natasha Richardson. (She isn't).

It's surprising people can tell who she is now. No mat-

ter how many times you see *The Crying Game*, you'd have a hard time recognising Richardson without the black wig she wears through much of the story. You'd have to look closely, spot her large, wide set eyes, her small, straight nose or her pale, heart shaped face.

The press, with mixed feelings, has grown accustomed to that face. For the past couple of months, Richardson has been talking repeatedly about the trio of films that make her a sure bet to be heard from around Academy Award time: *The Crying Game*, *Damage* and *Enchanted April*.

She's already won a Best Supporting Actress award for her work in all three movies from the New York Film Critics' Circle and a Best-Actress Golden Globe for *Enchanted April*.

"I'm in a different frame of mind than when I came before," said Richardson, 34, who has made it clear in the past she has little use for

publicity. "I feel more ready, more in control. Before, when I came, I felt I was being acted upon."

Her moods for this interview range from cordial to defensive. She wants it made clear she shouldn't be confused with the ruthless Irish Republican Army regular of *The Crying Game* or the high-strung nightclub hostess who murders her boyfriend in the 1985 release *Dance With A Stranger*, her film debut.

The actress notes cheerfully "it's so nice to support work you like," but not all her memories are happy ones. She has nothing but praise for *The Crying Game* and *Enchanted April*, but the tension on the set of *Damage* has been widely publicised, especially her battles with co-star Jeremy Irons and director Louis Malle.

Richardson, who plays Irons' betrayed wife, complained in a recent interview with the New York Times that the actor would "talk to Louis about what I should do

as if I wasn't even in the room or I was a little girl or something." She also indicated Malle did not spend enough time with her.

"The process was quite difficult at times, except paradoxically the day you thought would be most difficult went like a dream, the highly emotional day. It was wonderful, it was almost fun," Richardson said with a nervous laugh.

"I was happy enough with what I did in *Damage*. I'm still thinking about that film. It's not an enjoyable film. It's an uncomfortable film to watch. It makes me unclear whether it's good or not."

But she spoke warmly of *Enchanted April* director Mike Newell, who also made *Dance With A Stranger*, and was praised strongly by the director of *The Crying Game*, Neil Jordan.

"It was perfect," Jordan said of his working relationship with the actress. "Miranda is hugely intelli-

gent and all she wants to know is the truth, which is all an actor or actress should really want to know from the director."

If Richardson has been tough on some directors, she must have been murder on her schoolteachers, remembering with a mischievous smile her days as a bright student easily bored, prone to disrupting her classes.

Born in Southport, just north of Liverpool, the actress described herself as a reserved, intense child, but also spoke of her ability to make people laugh. By age 10, she was a movie fan, a Saturday morning regular at the cinema.

"There used to be all that heroic stuff, Flash Gordon and all that," she recalled. "I used to watch John Wayne all the time. I was really into westerns. I used to be John Wayne. I didn't think 'Male-female.' I think, 'I'm that part. I'm Rooster Cogburn. I'm Cromwell.'"

Her own films at times make you wonder how much she's changed. There's the lethal tilt of her head in *Dance With A Stranger*, the tongue-lashing she gives Irons at the end of *Damage* or the vicious slug to the jaw after Forest Whitaker curses her in *The Crying Game*.

"She is the most consummate actress I have come across," Jordan said. "She's braver than any actress I know. Miranda played a hugely unsympathetic woman in *The Crying Game*. She also has a range people in the United States aren't aware of."

"I think the reason I get asked to do something like that is that it seems I can go from naught to 60 in a short amount of time," said Richardson, who also has worked extensively on stage and British television. "I think it's what I've been called on to do. It's something I can do. I don't think it's particularly me."

Miranda Richardson holds the Golden Globe she won for best performance by an actress in a motion picture musical or comedy at the 50th annual Golden Globe Awards. She won for her performance in the film *Enchanted April* (AFP photo)

Simpsons creator says cartoon show will get stranger

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Matt Groening sat near a Simpsons video game, defending his cartoon progeny.

"Some people say The Simpsons are bad for kids because Bart does bad things," said the creator of the hit TV programme seen in many lands.

"What's bad for children is not a character that's misbehaving, but bad storytelling," Mr. Groening, nattily attired in matching grey jacket and slacks and maroon T-shirt, said. "The message of The Simpsons is that there's a world out there of wild funny people having a blast."

The Simpsons has become a success all over the world, broadcast in Britain, France, Japan, Australia, and Turkey.

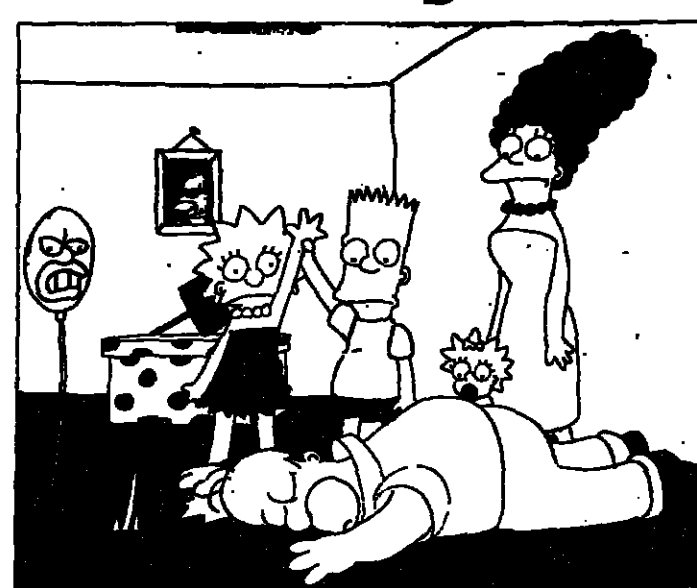
"I just did an interview

with a journalist in Istanbul, who demanded to know why The Simpsons was so popular in Turkey," Mr. Groening told Reuters during a recent interview in San Francisco.

"Wherever fathers scream at their children, The Simpsons will be popular," said Mr. Groening, 38.

The Simpsons has become the sitcom family of the 1990s, the latest in a long line of dysfunctional yet endearing TV families that includes The Honeymooners and an earlier prime-time cartoon, The Flintstones.

Mr. Groening was hardly the most likely candidate to author a network show. Prior to The Simpsons, he penned the counter-culture *Life In Hell* newspaper comic strip, starring a one-eared rabbit and a pair of identically



drawn men who may or may not be lovers.

It was while watching The Flintstones that Mr. Groening

first dreamed of creating a cartoon family fit for prime time.

"Luckily, there are now

television executives who are finally young enough to remember watching The Flintstones and The Jetsons, so they were able to have the nerve to put The Simpsons on the air," said the bearded, down-to-earth Groening.

The decision to air The Simpsons does not seem like a risky one now. Mr. Groening and crew created a show for children and adults. A recent episode focused on a trip to a Disneyland-like park with a beer theme, in which Bart's sister Lisa goes on what appears to be a drug trip.

"The way family entertainment is defined traditionally is by having no material that will offend any member of the family," Mr. Groening said. "What we tried to do was to define family enter-

tainment in a new sense, to find things that different members of the family can relate to for different reasons."

"I like to think of The Simpsons as a ticking cultural time bomb. There are kids who love the show right now. But when they watch the show in 15 or 20 years, after they've been to college and taken a few literature courses, they're going to go, 'oh, now I know who Ayn Rand is, now I know about Through The Looking Glass,' what those cultural references were."

The programme is sprinkled with references to old movies.

"We try to reward viewers for paying attention," Mr. Groening said. "If you pay attention, you're going to

reap the benefits, because there's large amounts of little funny jokes."

Where most shows have the same opening for each episode, The Simpsons varies the opening every time. Bart writes "I will not..." on the chalkboard with a different ending to the sentence and Lisa's saxophone solo is always different.

The family members got their names from Mr. Groening's family, although Homer Simpson was also inspired by the character of the same name in the Nathaniel West classic Hollywood novel, *The Day Of The Locust*.

The show is also known for the celebrities who turn up, supplying their voices to cartoon versions of themselves.

In a recent show, Leonard Nimoy, Spock on the original

Star Trek, spoofed himself. After Homer saved the passengers on a monorail train that was about to crash, the Nimoy character, who took no part in the rescue, said, "my work here is done."

Celebrities are lining up to appear on the show. Mr. Groening said, noting that upcoming episodes will feature cameos by cartoon versions of Johnny Carson, George Harrison and Elizabeth Taylor.

The Simpsons will continue to go where no sitcom family has gone before, Mr. Groening promised.

"We're trying not only to not repeat what other people are doing, we're trying not to repeat ourselves," he said. "I think you can count on the show getting even faster and stranger."

Russia's leading artist enjoys the taste of success

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — As a young painter in Communist Moscow, Ivan Chujkov refused to compromise his art and churn out the so-called Socialist Realism style demanded by party bureaucrats. In those days, the only kind of painting tolerated by the Kremlin was one imbued with a strong dose of "Partinost," or party spirit. "I found this Socialist Realism ideologically unacceptable," said Chujkov. "It was not realist and it certainly was not socialist."

Chujkov's unbending approach condemned him to

years of solitude as a painter. He eked out a paltry living as an art teacher, unable to show or sell any of his paintings, waiting for the inevitable knock on the door from the KGB. "The KGB came twice. It was a very unpleasant experience," said the Russian painter in a recent interview. The secret service officers did no physical harm to Chujkov, but they questioned him at length about his links with a Paris-published magazine dedicated to the work of underground Soviet artists. "They wanted to know how it was printed and how we got the

photographs out, and all the time they made veiled threats about how I would lose my job," he said.

These days, Chujkov lives in Western Europe — mostly Germany. Acclaimed as one of the two great modern Russian contemporary painters — the other is his friend and erstwhile underground companion Il'ya Kabakov — Chujkov is courted by gallery owners in New York, Paris and Rome. His work is beginning to appear in the world's major museums. He has more offers to exhibit than he can handle.

The contrast with his previous situation is dizzying. "Up until 1987, I had never been out of my own country," said Chujkov, who is in Rome for a month-long show at the Italian capital's prestigious Sprovieri Gallery. "I had never sold any paintings. I had never had an exhibition." Chujkov, 57, is gifted with a strong sense of humour and irony, which helped him live through the difficult years and carry on his painting even when there was no one to see his work. "Of course, not being able to show one's work was really a great handicap, because you can only really grow when you can compare yourself with your peers, not only in your own country, but also in other countries," he said.

After graduating from Moscow's Institute of Art in 1960, Chujkov worked in almost total isolation for 16 years. "It was very difficult," he recalls. "I did not produce a lot of work because there was no sense in producing." Chujkov survived by giving correspondence art courses. He earned a pittance, but his integrity remained intact. Later, he dabbled with officialdom when he took on commissions to paint the backdrops for factory clubs and collective farmers' clubs. It turned out to be more trouble than it was worth. "They

usually wanted local landscapes, so I had to go to the place to make sketches. Then the boss had to sign it. Then I had to go to Moscow and they had to sign it again. It was really very difficult."

In 1976, he was introduced into a circle of artists who also refused to paint politically correct scenes of peasants and party slogans. The painters drew strength from each other. They launched a magazine — called "A-YA," the first and last letters of the Russian alphabet — smuggling the words and pictures out to Paris, where it was printed. Chujkov began to paint more prolifically. Now he had an audience, however restricted. "An artist needs at least one or two spectators, and then he can paint," he said. "If you have none at all, then it is impossible."

Even so, it was to be another 10 years before "perestroika" was to enable Chujkov to taste the freedom he had hardly dared to hope for. In the mid-1980s, Western art collectors, favoured by the more relaxed political climate, took an interest in Soviet painters. "Before that, the only people who ever bought our paintings were the occasional diplomat — it was known as 'dip-art,'" said Chujkov. "But they were not really interested in the works themselves. It was the idea of buying from underground artists."

The big break

In 1988 came the big break. Chujkov was invited to France and, even more remarkable, was allowed to go. "I will never forget it," he said. "It was fantastic. I can still remember everything about it." Chujkov spent two months in France, taking part in a workshop with artists from Germany, Italy and the U.S. The cultural exchange after years of isolation was intoxicating.

A year later, he was named artist in residence in Washington, D.C. In 1989 he had an exhibition in three German cities, followed by a contract with a gallery in Cologne. Chujkov's future had been cast and his reputation sealed as one of the new stars of the rich, ex-Communist cultural firmament. "Since then, I have worked and lived mainly in the West, mostly in Germany, but also in Italy and France," Chujkov said. "And I manage to stay in Russia for two to three months, too," he added, smiling. "For me, it's not so difficult because anyone who has foreign currency finds things easier." Chujkov's wife Galina, also an artist, generally travels with him. The couple has a 22-year-old daughter, Eugenia, who is studying art in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Refreshingly unpretentious, he does not seem to care about the hero status demanded and received by some of his Western contemporaries. "There is great interest in Russian art at the moment, and Chujkov is one of the two most highly acclaimed Russian painters," said Luigi Scialanga, curator of Chujkov's exhibition at Sprovieri Gallery. "Their paintings show great optimism — Chujkov's work is full of light and energy. It doesn't have the cynicism of a lot of American and West European art. And the painters themselves represent a fresh new voice."

Their paintings can still be had at realistic prices, which has boosted demand. "A Chujkov canvas measuring 180 cm by 130 cm recently fetched DM 50,000 (about \$29,400) in Cologne. 'My work fetches a lot of money, but I am not rich,' said the artist, 'though, of course, I am rich by Russian standards.'"

Chujkov describes his paintings as a style that ex-



Russian painter Ivan Chujkov refused to compromise his art to churn out the Socialist Realism style demanded by the Soviet bureaucrats

plores the relationship between reality and art. "I am interested in the different ways of presenting reality," he said. He mixed different styles on the same canvas, marrying a fragment of an old master with a Matisse, perhaps adding a detail from a picture postcard, a political poster or a road sign. Fragmentation is an important theme in Chujkov's paintings, a factor that may be linked to his own background, albeit subliminally. His work is not overtly political, although he recognises, with hindsight, that the political events he lived through have influenced his paintings at a subconscious level. "I did a lot of works in Russia, never thinking of a political or social reality. But now I see that in almost all of them my feelings about the political situation are reflected."

Chujkov points to a series of paintings called *Windows*, which he did while still living in Moscow. "Now I see those paintings were subconsciously connected to the impossibil-

ity of getting out of the country," he explained. Freedom has its price and, in Chujkov's case, that price is a place to call his own and the time to enjoy his new-found liberty. He confesses to being exhausted by the long round of travel. "I am very tired of not having a permanent place to live," he said. His hectic programme includes stops in Germany immediately after he leaves Rome, followed by a spell in Paris, where he is taking part in a group exhibition, then Moscow and Cologne, where he will be preparing for another major show.

Occasionally, he bumps into one of his former artist friends from the old days — when they had to meet on the sly and look at each other's works in secret. If he has one regret, it is for that sense of mutual support and camaraderie. "Everyone was in the same situation. Everyone supported each other. There was no envy. There was a feeling of common purpose, which was really great. Now

that has gone. Everyone has gone their separate ways."

There have been other surprises about life in the West. "I wouldn't say I was disappointed. That's not the right word. But the West turned out to be not exactly what we dreamed about," said Chujkov. He admits being shocked by the difficulties facing young artists, even highly talented ones. "For us (Russians), it was much easier, because it was the time of Gorbachev and human rights and that highlighted us and our work as artists. But it's much harder for the younger ones...for example the French in France. Making the first break is almost impossible. You need luck, connections and acquaintances."

"But I see a lot of good ahead, and I have the opportunity to live off my art," he added. "I did not think that could happen. I was quite prepared to live my whole life in my country without having the possibility ever to leave or show my work." — World News Link



Having gained acclaim in the West, Ivan Chujkov can not keep up with all the requests for exhibits

Film raises hopes about multiple sclerosis treatment

By Jude Webber

LONDON — Hopes that a new treatment could be on the way for the incurable disease multiple sclerosis (MS) have been raised by a Hollywood movie drawing crowds in the United States.

A British company featured in the film *Lorenzo's Oil* for developing a product to treat a rare genetic illness says it is now working on one that could be a breakthrough in MS.

The company, Croda International Plc, is cautious, stressing the diseases are very different, as is the proposed new treatment.

Croda also says that research is still at an early stage and it will not begin clinical trials for several months.

But charity workers fighting to fund research into MS, a disease of the central nervous system which can be fatal, have welcomed the new research and the publicity *Lorenzo's Oil* has generated for their cause.

"It's raised people's awareness... it's been very

very positive for us," said Ann Aronowitz, honorary secretary of the British Trust for the Myelin Project, which funds research into how damage caused by a disease to the central nervous system can be repaired.

Lorenzo's Oil, starring Nick Nolte and Susan Sarandon, tells the true story of an American couple who find out their six-year-old son, Lorenzo, is suffering from a rare genetic disease and has only two years to live.

Lorenzo has adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), which, like MS, attacks the fatty myelin sheath surrounding nerve fibres and stops signals being transmitted to other parts of the body.

A damaged myelin sheath can result in paralysis, blindness, loss of speech and most bodily functions. In MS the immune system attacks itself and patients can suffer chronic relapses.

Lorenzo's Oil tells how Lorenzo's parents, Augusto and Michaela Odono researched the disease. They concluded that a build-up of un-

usual body fats caused by ALD could be counteracted by giving him a special edible oil.

They contacted Croda, which came up with a formula that worked for Lorenzo. He remains disabled, but his parents say his life has been saved and the progression of ALD stopped.

Some parents of ALD sufferers are reported to be disillusioned that the "wonder oil" which gave the film a happy ending does not work for everyone. And MS experts are sceptical about how successful Croda's MS research will prove.

"The concept of lipid abnormality is not new. We have researched it before and found it to be wanting," neurologist Dr. David Bates, who heads the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Medical Research Advisory Committee, told Reuters.

Dr. Bates said Croda's thesis was "worthy of investigation" but there was no scientific evidence that it would succeed.

The Multiple Sclerosis

Society, Britain's major MS charity, is giving no financial support to Croda.

It is paying more than £100,000 (\$142,000) as part of a three-nation project testing a manufactured antibody on humans to see if scarring on the myelin sheath can be repaired.

Preliminary results from trials in the Netherlands, Australia and Britain are expected early next year.

MS patients are sometimes prescribed steroids but there are no treatments available guaranteed to give long-term help.

John Simkins, a manager at MS Charity Action and Research into Multiple Sclerosis (ARMS), said Croda's research was good news if it resulted in a treatment with no side-effects.

ARMS is also interested in special diets to help MS sufferers and Mr. Simkins said he thought MS research was now "in a phase of considerable potential".

Other promising avenues include a compound de-

veloped by German pharmaceuticals group Schering AG in the United States which is currently pending approval by the Food and Drugs Administration.

The compound acts on the immune system to cut time between attacks and a Schering spokeswoman said it looked very promising. But she said it would take time to produce and market the compound on a large scale.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society says it will spend the £2 million (\$2.8 million) it hopes to raise from the recent record-breaking Antarctic crossing by British explorers Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr. Michael Stroud on MS research.

But study into the still poorly understood disease is a race against time, said the Myelin Project's Ann Aronowitz, whose brother is one of Britain's estimated 80,000 MS sufferers.

She was disappointed that a Croda MS oil would not be on the market for several years and described the



Michaela (Susan Sarandon) and Lorenzo (Zack O'Malley Granger) in director George Milagros' *Lorenzo's Oil*.

Myelin Project, set up in 1989 by Lorenzo's father to speed up research into replacing damaged myelin, as "much more radical".

Ms. Aronowitz said scientists in the United States, which has some 250,000 MS sufferers, had successfully replaced myelin in the spinal cords of animals. The next step is human trials which, according to Augusto Odono, could begin by the end of

1993 at a cost of \$3 million. "We're in a hurry. We want the Nobel Prize. We want our people to walk again."

Scientist links kidneys to sudden infant death syndrome

LONDON (AP) — A severe kidney disorder may explain many cases of sudden infant death syndrome, but the finding does not yet point the way to prevention, a British doctor said.

Dr. Dick Van Velzen, professor of fetal and infant pathology at Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, studied 24 infants who died of no known cause in the first six months of life. He found two thirds had a deficiency of Nephrons, the tiny filters within the kidney.

He said this may leave the infants vulnerable to a range

of infections.

The finding does not offer immediate hope for prevention.

"It explains why these children die and why they are vulnerable to things normal children don't die from," Dr. Van Velzen said.

The study will be published in the May issue of *Pediatric Pathology*, an international scientific journal.

"The merit in the study is that they have looked at an aspect of sudden infant death syndrome that has not been studied before, but it's still very preliminary," said Dr.

Gonzalez Crussi, a pediatric pathologist at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago and editor-in-chief of *Pediatric Pathology*.

"If the findings are confirmed, it can lead, in due course, to prevention," said Dr. Crussi.

Other experts did not want to comment before reading the study.

Using a sophisticated, three dimensional microscope, Dr. Van Velzen examined the kidneys of 24 infants who died suddenly. He said two-thirds of the children had less than half the

normal number of Nephrons, the tiny filters that make up the kidney.

"It's like having one kidney," said Dr. Van Velzen.

Although people can survive with one kidney, Dr. Van Velzen suspects that infants need both kidneys to survive ordinary infections.

He suspects the first half year is a vulnerable period, during which the Nephrons are developing. Babies with only half the normal number would be more likely to build up toxins or get very ill from ordinary infections.

Balding men, take good care of your hearts, doctors say

CHICAGO (AP) — Men losing their hair should look to their hearts.

A study found 21 to 55 year old men who were severely bald at the top were three times more likely to suffer heart attacks than those with full heads of hair.

Men with mild to moderate baldness on top had about a 1 1/2 times greater risk. Men with receding hairlines — even severely receding ones — but no baldness on top faced no increased risk.

Findings of the study of 665 male heart attack victims and 772 similar men who had suffered no heart attacks appear in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

The research was funded by the Upjohn Co., which makes a treatment for baldness.

The hypothesis that baldness may predict coronary artery disease goes back

more than 25 years, noted the authors, led by Dr. Samuel M. Lesko of Boston University School of Medicine's School of Public Health.

The reason for the apparent link remains unknown, they said. They speculated that a male hormone known to be necessary for baldness may have a role in suppressing "good" HDL cholesterol, which protects the heart.

Eight previous studies have explored whether the association truly exists. Researchers who reviewed all eight concluded in 1990 that "a small risk of coronary disease due to baldness may exist, but this risk is smaller than that of well known risk factors such as smoking and hypertension," said an editorial in *JAMA*.

The editorial's authors, Drs. Peter W. F. Wilson and William D. Kannel of the Framingham Heart Study, a landmark study in Fram-

ingham, Mass., said some balding men may want to take extra precautions.

"Persons who belong to families with an increased risk of premature coronary heart disease are advised to scrupulously control known risk factors such as elevated cholesterol levels, smoking and elevated blood pressure levels, and it also seems prudent for bald men to follow more rigorously similar regimens," Dr. Wilson and Dr. Kannel wrote.

Dr. Richard J. Carroll, a preventive cardiologist at Loyola University Medical Centre, said men who are losing hair on top should view it "more as a marker for a potential problem rather than as a potential problem itself."

Such men should be especially sure to get themselves screened for high cholesterol, high blood pressure and other traits that might increase their likelihood of de-

veloping heart disease.

Dr. Carroll, who as noted involved in the new study, said statistically for possible effects of smoking, hypertension, age, family history, alcohol consumption, exercise and other traits associated with heart risk.

The link between baldness and heart attacks still they found.

But Dr. Lesko said unknown whether results applicable to men over 50 or to racial minority groups, who comprised about 5 per cent of subjects.

Presumably Upjohn most interested in men likely to use its baldness treatment, Monoxidil — those under 55, Dr. Lesko said.

All the doctors said research will be needed to make sure the link exists if it does, to find out

Smoking more deadly than previously suspected — study

LONDON (AP) — Smokers are three times more likely to die before the age of 70 than non-smokers, scientists said in announcing the latest results of a 40-year study of the health of British doctors.

"These new results are much more extreme than had been suggested by the 20-year follow up when premature death was 'only' twice as common in smokers as in non-smokers," said Sir Richard Doll, who identified the link between smoking and lung cancer.

Scientists said the gap has widened because non-smokers have a longer life expectancy today than 20 years ago. Cigarette smokers are not living longer, said Sir Richard, an investigator at the Imperial Cancer Research Centre at Oxford University.

Death due to heart disease has dropped by 30 per cent among non-smokers, but has not dropped among smokers, said Sir Richard speaking at the Royal Society, Britain's

most prestigious scientific organisation.

While cigarette smokers probably shared in some of the improvements that affected non-smokers, such as coronary bypass surgery, hypotensive surgery, and dietary change, "the benefits have been counterbalanced by the maturing of the smoking epidemic," said Sir Richard.

The report includes a greater proportion of men who started smoking when they were teenagers. The earlier analysis, after 20 years, included doctors who started smoking later in life because smoking had not been fashionable when they were teenagers.

The results are based on the analysis of 34,439 male doctors who have been traced for 40 years. The study is world renowned for providing some of the earliest evidence linking smoking and lung cancer.

Richard Peto, a statistician

who works with Sir Richard, said the findings were based on 668 deaths within the study group in the last 20 years.

Among men between the ages of 44 and 70, 1.69 per cent of smokers died annually compared to 0.57 per cent of non-smokers, Mr. Peto said. In the 45-54 age group, 1.14 per cent of smokers died each year compared to 0.38 per cent of smokers. For men aged 55-64, 2.25 per cent of smokers died each year compared to 0.77 per cent of non-smokers, Mr. Peto said.

The study included doctors only because investigators believed they would be more apt to respond accurately to health surveys. It was limited to men because of the preponderance of male doctors when the study began.

The study shows that only three of every 200 men who smoke at least 25 cigarettes a day from the age of 35 onwards will live to the age of 90.

In contrast, about nine of every 200 light smokers and thirty out of 200 non-smokers will survive to age of 90, said Sir Richard.

Judith Hatton, smoking researcher for Forest, Research Organisation for the Royal Society, said the study a "gross exaggeration."

She said the rates of lung cancer in Japan are the highest in the world, yet Japanese have the longest life expectancy. Greece, with the most smokers per capita of the world, has the lowest cancer rate in Europe, women and the second for men, she said.

Several large health surveys have associated cigarette smoking with an increased risk of cancer, including the lip, mouth, pharynx, esophagus, pancreas, and cervix.

In this study, smokers seven times more likely from cancer than non-smokers.

Aspirin 'appears to protect' against colon cancer

WASHINGTON (R) — Regular doses of Aspirin appear to protect against growth of colon and rectal cancers, Swedish and American researchers have reported.

Rheumatoid arthritis patients in Sweden who regularly used Aspirin and other non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs were found to be 30 to

40 per cent less likely to have cancers of the large bowel than the general population, according to the study published in the *Journal of the (U.S.) National Cancer Institute*.

In addition to reduced incidence of colon and rectal cancers, the female arthritis patients were found to have

reduced risk for other digestive cancers such as stomach, oesophagus, gall bladder, pancreas, and breast cancer.

Dr. Clark Heath of the American Cancer Society said it is too soon to recommend doses of Aspirin to reduce the risk of cancer, but he was encouraged because

this study confirmed findings from previous studies.

A large trial involving patients randomly selected on different dosages of drugs will be needed to see if Aspirin can slow the growth of colorectal polyps, which become cancerous.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CONNECTIONS
By Harvey Chase

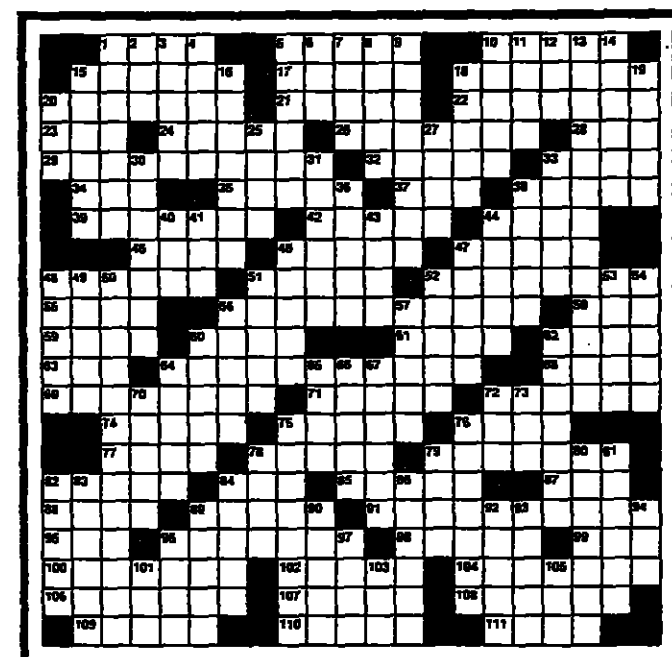
ACROSS
1 "Pygmalion" author
5 Concerning the pain
10 Shrine
15 Prisoner-of-war camp
16 Cruelty, as a budget
20 Decade name
21 Perpetual
22 Future king
23 Paraphrase of football
24 City on the Ligurian Sea
26 Crystalline rock
28 Presidential mien
29 Breakfast dish

DOWN
1 Large vessel
2 London of "Barnaby Rudge"
3 Straighten
4 Decreased gradually
5 Ice
6 Rude scrap
7 Wain
8 Allow to enter
9 Dark hint, e.g.
10 Winged
11 Ordered
12 Nominal value
13 To the point
14 Protective
15 Mexican shawl
16 Gains of corn
18 Act frugally
19 The
20 Scrooge word

Diagramless 10 x 10, By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 Delays in quality
2 Delays out
3 Society girl, for short
4 Concerning
5 One
6 Lay plant
7 Pave
8 Representative
9 TV's
10 "Remington"
12 Adhere

DOWN
1 Rescues
2 God of war
3 Society girl, for short
4 Concerning
5 One
6 Lay plant
7 Pave
8 Representative
9 TV's
10 "Remington"
12 Adhere



Last Week's Cryptograms 02/21/93

1. Since treacherous tracker seems reluctant to have a nice day, brother
2. Two wreathers, feisty but still doubtful, faced each other eyeball to
3. Aging eccentric snail selected eight ugliest old females and formed
4. Good umbrellas should be made with at least eight wide ribs.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. CJM YJSLV AVUQ QLSWJ AJRETC RTIQM
WP VIEWPE YJRC.

2. PMOATY UMN PLZCM "ESVNSUM
ZCLYONNM" NMYUI XR LYLLOZSOZ

CONSUMER AMUSIM TV XCRMY. ZCBENR,
UCYAMY TOM.

3. BLTCLBT MNBIBFQIS ECMYII Y ECF
CRYVICT GK JCBEP TVCMBCI GK

WCBQFT ANTA JCEC JGFPCRELIIS QGOF
YA WCMGHSFP CRABPMA.

4. BSMUASUSDAKDY HOGIDH ZOQZQGDAS
"KR IKD'H RES BXEQQM. KR'B RES
ZOKDXZIM QU HES HEKDY."

—By Eugene T. Malachuk

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A case for government intervention?

THE PROTEST by parents and students at the New English School over the school's decision to hike its fees by about 50 per cent as of next year raises a serious issue on the advisability of governmental intervention in such matters.

On one hand, there is a growing conviction in most countries that the "least government is the best government" and that the less the state interferes in how people run their businesses, schools and hospitals the better. This school of thought gained currency in the wake of the dismal failure of not only communism but also socialism in practically all the countries that introduced them as a panacea to their economic, social and political woes.

Historically, when the Industrial Revolution emerged from the ruins of feudalism in 18th century Europe, laissez faire economies prevailed in most of the continent and non-government intervention was absent. However, the Industrial Revolution brought about social, economic and political problems that gave rise to labour unions and labour disputes that ultimately prompted additional legislations and increased governmental intervention aiming to resolve the unrest and instability that ensued. In some societies, governmental interference took the form of extreme socialism and communism.

We all know now the fate of this medicine and peoples across the world are weary about reintroducing it in some form or the other. Yet the diagnosis of the ills that caused the rise of governmental control needs to be undertaken once again in a bid to eliminate or at least reduce to the bare minimum the opportunities for state direct involvement in decision-making that can be best handled by the people themselves. The surest way to arrive at this happy state of affairs is to have our private institutions act responsibly and justly in order to avoid the causes that prompt government agencies to step into the fray. More important of course is for people to organise themselves in parties, leagues, societies and pressure groups in order to defend their interests.

Admittedly the Ministry of Education interference in the running and operation of private schools is the last thing that sensible people want. Wherever the ministry intervened, it caused more problems than it had solved. This is not to mention the fact that the quality of education at most of the private institutions of learning in Jordan has deteriorated considerably due to governmental regulations on curricula, textbooks and modes and style of education.

No one would seriously want the concerned authorities to step still into other areas of education. On the other hand, owners or co-owners of private elementary and secondary schools are called upon to weigh heavily the social, economic and educational ramifications of their decisions in order to abort all plans for increased state actions.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i commented on the explosions in Cairo, New York and London by claiming that the blasts caused by the perpetrators of the Gulf War and the aggressors, have started to reach them and destabilise their own countries. Tareq Masarweh said that the Gulf War took place under the present imbalance in world order with the United States wielding sole hegemony over other nations playing the role of sole superpower. The blasts and the civil strife as well as regional conflicts, he said, are bound to happen everywhere in the world even in New York and London, not only in the Gulf, in the former Yugoslavia, in Afghanistan and Somalia as triggered by the U.S.-led Western coalition. With the downfall of the Soviet Union, the world has witnessed the collapse of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Third World movement and the numerous divisions among nations and blocs simply due to the lack of superpower balance and a force that could stem U.S. hegemony, said the writer. The world was more balanced with two superpowers and the United Nations was better functioning than today, while the sovereignty and territorial integrity of various nations were safeguarded to the best interest of the world at large, said the writer. He said that Washington's victory over the world enabled the rulers of Kuwait to come out victorious over Iraq and the Arab Nation at large, it enabled the Serbs to wage war on the Muslims of the former Yugoslavia and unleashed the hidden forces in the former Soviet Union in the form of regional strife and factional wars. The writer said that these victories have created world-wide chaos whose consequences are hard to stop.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackled the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) decision to disrupt partial services to telephone subscribers who fail to pay their dues for the past two months. Ziyad Al Shilleh said that during the month of Ramadan, the office hours of banks accepting the bills and those of the TCC itself have shrunk, reducing the chance for the public to settle payments. It seems that the TCC had overlooked the fact that public holidays during the month of Ramadan, with the TCC office hours reduced to a few hours, this, he said, is an artificial excuse to delay the payment of bills. He said that the TCC should make their payment in time before the TCC embarks on its plan of disrupting the service. The writer said that it would be on the part of the TCC to defer taking any measure in this regard until the month of Ramadan is over so as to give more time to subscribers to make their payment.

The View from Fourth Circle

Have another serving of diplomatic soul food

THE SIX-point compromise agreement now being proposed to restart the Arab-Israeli peace talks is, like so many other phenomena around here, an exercise in ancient Middle Eastern spirituality that is good for the soul. It is appropriate to our Holy Land and because its acceptance and application rely on faith rather than on anything more concrete.

If the agreement allows the peace talks to resume, then we should applaud it and get on with the business of negotiating an Arab-Israeli peace accord that would secure Palestinian and other Arab national rights. We should not ignore the small moral gains inherent in the accord, but neither should we fool ourselves into thinking that we have achieved a major triumph.

The importance of the compromise accord does not lie in its particular political content, but rather in its contextual symbolism, i.e. it does not change the balance of power between Israelis and Arabs and it has little real impact on the lives of the Palestinian people as a whole. But it does slightly tighten the diplomatic rope around Zionism's militaristic neck. It is a symbol of the increasingly narrow room for manoeuvre that Israel enjoys in the world today.

Clearly, the Arabs and Israelis want to resume the peace talks, but we the Arabs need a face-saving formula to do so without appearing to have forgotten about the 400 Palestinians expelled to southern Lebanon.

The compromise accord provides precisely such a formula, despite its obvious weaknesses. Most of the points of the agreement, as it stands today and as outlined in the press, appear to be sufficiently vague that Israel can ignore them or interpret them in such a narrow way that they become meaningless. The "commitments" expected from Israel either have no mechanism for implementation, or can be implemented in a very limited manner that denudes or even defies their political spirit.

For example, Israel may stop deporting people, but instead it will keep killing them, or jailing them for decades at a time, or blowing up their homes, or forcing them to stay at home without work. It will allow back half a dozen politically low-key Palestinians who were expelled in previous years, and it will allow the 400 expellees in southern Lebanon to return home later this year, after arguing that they served their sentences and therefore their return is politically insignificant.

Israel will also discuss U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the status of Jerusalem at the next round of talks, but only within the context of its own interpretations. And both Israel and the United States will say they are against human rights violations, but will accept most of Israel's routine human rights violations as an unavoidable Israeli response to alleged Arab

terrorism and security threats.

This is a gloomy assessment, but, then, this has been a gloomy half century; to escape it through fantasy rides into zones of political make-believe may be fun and therapeutic, but is not very constructive in terms of diplomatic progress to contain Zionism and restore Palestinian and other Arab rights.

The compromise agreement on offer now is a classic piece of inter-Semantic diplomatic verbiage — words that sound good, but that relate less to the real world of human beings and their material needs, and more to the Arab and Israeli soul's need to avoid shame and humiliation.

Furthermore, the position of the United States will be crucial for the implementation of the accord, which gets us back to the central dilemma of the Arabs in the current peace talks: We expect and rely on more activist American intervention in the peace talks, yet virtually unquestioning American support for Israel is one of the main reasons we have been occupied, subjugated and humiliated by Israel in the last quarter of a century. We anticipate that the financier, armorer, and diplomatic shield of our enemy will suddenly become our benefactor and ally. This is highly illogical and very improbable; but in this land of miracles, prophecy and magical morality, it's probably standard operating procedure. Like I said, it's all very spiritual, requiring much blind faith.

That's the bad news. The good news is that, despite all the above, we should recognise the positive elements inherent in the compromise agreement. The most important gain for us was contained in the initial U.S.-Israeli compromise formula presented to the U.N. Security Council a month ago, by which Israel expressed its readiness to take back about 100 expellees immediately and the rest by the end of this year. Such an Israeli reversal of policy, in response to Arab and international demands that it implement the provisions of Security Council Resolution 799, is a powerful sign that Israel's heretofore total defiance of Arab rights, international positions, and U.N. resolutions is beginning to crack. This is unprecedented, and therefore very important, because it sets the stage for possibly greater Palestinian and Arab gains in the peace talks.

The larger picture around the peace talks is now becoming clear, about one and a half years after the process opened in Madrid. Israel will not voluntarily relinquish land, power, natural resources or its own nationalistic fantasies and mythology. Nor will the United States suddenly see the light and push hard for Palestinian and Arab national rights. The process is slower and more subtle. It is a process by which Israel's gross injustice to the Palestinians and its aggression against Arab states in modern

history stick out today as glaring anachronisms.

By the same token, Zionism, in its present, militaristic and predatory form, appears to be an awkward and untenable holdover from the old global order of 19th century colonialism, the early 20th century quest for post-colonial imperial advantage, and the mid-to-late 20th century demise of discredited parallel ideologies such as Fascism, Nazism, socialist nationalism, Communism, apartheid, and racism.

Zionism and Israel have relied on several powerful allies in recent decades, including European and American guilt over the recent Holocaust, the transparent commercialism of British Jewish imperialism and American electoral politics, Israel's self-projection as a bulwark against the spread of Communism in the Arab World, and the traditional Arab refusal to negotiate peace with Israel.

The first three factors above have disappeared or are slowly doing so. Israel has few commercial buttons left to push in its traditional quest for national dominance over the Arabs. And now, the peace talks have taken away Israel's last major crutch — that it was not accepted in the region and that no Arabs would negotiate with it.

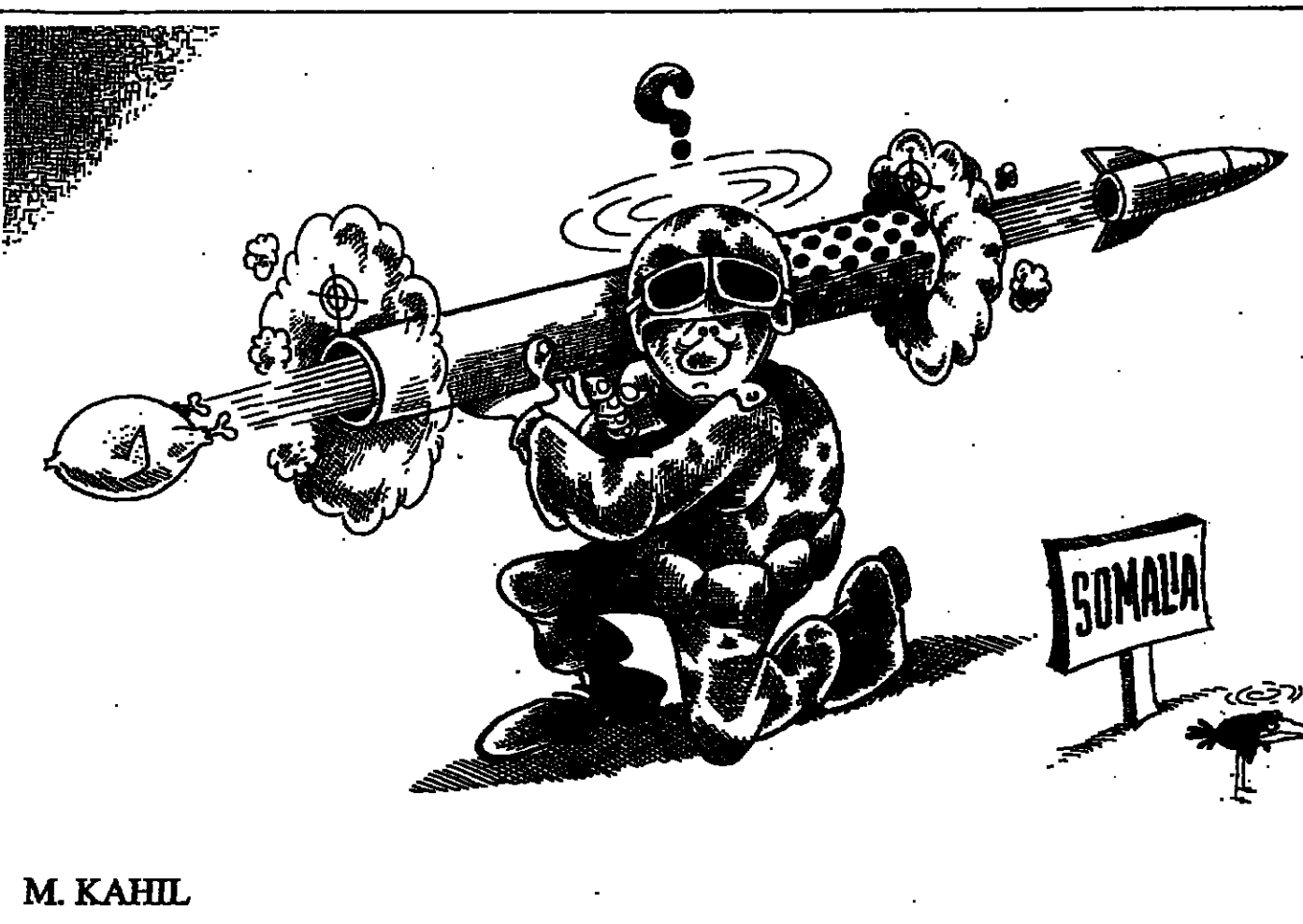
The peace talks are just now starting to show their true historic importance. In the absence of Arab military strength or the Arab will to use existing capabilities, diplomacy is today our best and probably only means of progress in the battle with Zionism.

The small but significant concessions we have obtained from Israel and the United States in the last two months should not be underestimated; they are important signals of changing times. They occurred partly because transformed global circumstances peeled away the thick outer layers of our conflict and forced Arabs and Israelis to get down to discussing the core issue of coexistence. But I believe that the concessions happened primarily because we and the Israelis are now locked in a negotiating context in which it is impossible to evade the central issues of Arab and Israeli national rights.

Let us keep an honest perspective: The compromise over Resolution 799 will not make much difference to the peace talks, but the success of the peace talks will prevent future incidents such as the recent mass expulsions of the 400 Palestinians. This seems to be reflected in the relatively methodical and mature Arab approach to resuming the peace talks, on the basis of the compromise offer over Resolution 799 that is now on the table.

If this sort of rationality, realism, gradualism and composure will guide Arab diplomacy from now on, we have much to look forward to, and the Israelis have much to worry about.

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M. KAHIL

Iraq rebuffed yet again

U.N. sees little progress in Baghdad's declaration that it will allow long-term monitoring of its weapons

By Randall Palmer
Reuter

MANAMA — U.N. officials sat up and took notice when they heard Iraq had declared that it accepted long-term monitoring of its weapons capabilities.

A dispute over long-term monitoring is one of the problems preventing the U.N. special commission (UNSCOM), which oversees the weapons destruction, from declaring Iraqi compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms. This is essential for any lifting of sanctions.

But when they saw the details of the statement, the officials reacted with scepticism, saying that Baghdad was still failing to comply with U.N. demands.

Lieutenant-General Amer Rasheed, head of the Iraqi Military Industrialisation Commission which oversaw development of big weapons programmes, told Reuters in Baghdad on Friday: "We are ready for long-term monitoring... we are committed to it."

The United Nations has insisted that Iraq specifically accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 715, which sets the details of how the long-term monitoring will work.

"He is certainly making positive noises, a positive declaration about their willingness to continue in long-term inspections," said Douglas Englund, UN-

SCOM's spokesman in Bahrain. "But it (the interview) doesn't really mention 715, which the commission continues to mention as a condition."

Among other important demands UNSCOM has made is that Iraq reveal who supplied the weapons systems and components, in order to choke off these supply routes. Inspectors have also said Iraq must stop making what they said were false declarations.

"(The Iraqis) have cried wolf one too many times for me, and I have stopped reading too much into such remarks," a Western diplomat

No definitive progress has been made on these issues. Iraq says it is willing to positively consider requests for information on the supply network but has so far refused to answer questions already put.

Mr. Rasheed's tone had changed since a conversation he had with a U.N. inspector in Baghdad, when former U.S. President George Bush was still in power. He said then he would break the backs of any Iraqi providing information to the U.N. teams.

Mr. Rasheed said in the inter-

view Friday that the Iraqi leadership had issued orders for the implementation of the Gulf war ceasefire terms in Security Council Resolution 687 "in a positive and constructive way."

Mr. Englund responded: "They have said they accept 687 and the provisions of 687 and that includes long-term monitoring. If pressed, they say 'we accept long-term monitoring'."

But he said Iraqi policy has been to reject 715 as too intru-

sive. U.N. officials say it is not up to Iraq to reject a Security Council Resolution. The reason they are pressing for formal acceptance is to try to ensure that Iraq does not raise obstacles similar to those it has in the past.

In January, in the twilight of the Bush administration, Baghdad's refusal to accept inspectors to fly into Iraq, directly contravening Security Council resolutions.

UNSCOM Chief Rolf Ekeus gave specific details in New York in describing how on Feb. 22 Iraq

twice threatened to shoot down a U.N. helicopter that was participating in inspections near Baghdad. General Rasheed denied there had been any threat.

The question of sanctions is crucial to the oil markets, which would tumble if Iraq were readmitted without restrictions, and to financial markets as well.

Iraq has spurned a U.N. offer to let it produce about half a million barrels per day (BPD) — it rejects the U.N. conditions of the deal. But those in the industry think it could pump two million BPD if sanctions were lifted completely.

It is not only the opinion of U.N. inspectors that counts. Security Council members will ultimately have to agree to lift the sanctions, imposed as a result of Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

A diplomat from one permanent Western member of the Security Council said he did not give much credence to Mr. Rasheed's remarks.

"Those boys have cried wolf (raised false alarms) one too many times for me, and I've stopped reading too much into such remarks," he said.

He added that he doubted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein wanted to return to the market for now because he could keep his Kurdish and Shiite Muslim opponents deprived while continuing to take good care of those who surround him.

LETTERS

A U.N. precedence pass unnoticed

To the Editor:

LAST WEEK the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations adopted a resolution condemning Israel's violation of human rights in the occupied territories. The commission also appointed a special rapporteur to monitor Israel's actions in this area. The relevant text is as follows:

4. (The commission) decides to appoint a special rapporteur with the following mandate:

a) To investigate Israel's violations of the principles and bases of international law, international humanitarian law, the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

b) To receive communications, to hear witnesses and use such modalities of procedure as he may deem necessary for his mandate.

c) To report, with his conclusions and recommendations, to the commission on human rights at its future sessions, until the end of the Israeli occupation of those territories.

Although this was an unprecedented positive action taken by the United Nations, the local press did not feel it necessary to dedicate to it more than a few brief lines. It should be highlighted that this move by the commission on Human Rights is of great importance to the Arab-Israeli conflict and more importantly to Palestinians in the occupied territories whose rights have been violated throughout Israel's occupation of these territories.

The text of the resolution brings out some very important issues in this area. For the first time, a U.N. resolution has referred to the territories occupied since 1967 as "Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967." This is a clear indication of the U.N.'s stand concerning the ownership of the territories in question — clearly defining the owner and occupier.

The resolution, in its clear definition of ownership, has reinforced the text of Security Council Resolution 242 of 22 Nov. 1967, which the Arabs have been attempting to establish as the basis of all negotiations during the peace talks. The resolution also goes on to indicate the laws and conventions being violated by Israel and enforcing the demand to abide by these laws and conventions. In doing so, it has openly stated that Israel is in reality a violator of human rights who should be stopped.

In appointing a rapporteur to monitor Israel's actions and to report back to the Commission on Human Rights, it is sending Israel the clear message that it acknowledges the rights of the Palestinians, Israel's violations of these rights, and the fact that "someone is watching over" what is happening in the occupied territories. For the Palestinians, this is encouraging in that it not only acknowledges their rights and the violations of these rights, but it also gives them the right to protest to an international authority against these violations.

The U.N. should be commended on finally taking such positive steps towards protecting the human rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories, in spite of the protests made against this resolution by the U.S. The Arabs can only hope that this resolution will be implemented properly and consistently, unlike previous resolutions concerning the occupied territories. The world finally seems to acknowledge the fact that Palestinians are also humans whose rights are of no less importance than any other, and that they are in desperate need of the protection of these rights. This is a step forward which may precede other positive steps towards achieving the peaceful and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Ghadah Mahmoud,
American-Arab
Anti-discrimination Committee,
Amman.

Education or commerce?

To the Editor:

I AM sure that I speak for all of the "disgruntled" parents and students of the New English School (NES) as well as a vast majority of teachers, in thanking the Jordan Times for giving this fee dispute issue the attention it deserves.

NES initial ideas were to provide a first class education for reasonable fees. Since the school expanded and was taken over by a businessman, these ideas seem to have flown and the school has become a commercial enterprise. Secondary school students, who are in the crucial years of their studies, and face the prospect of their parents having to remove them from NES because they cannot afford these fees, have every right to protest and voice their feelings. These children will be the future backbone of our beloved country, which incidentally, is this writer's adopted country.

Many parents would like to see government intervention to control private school fees; government control is exercised over many financial areas, such as foodstuffs, even the price to cut one's hair is approved by government departments. Surely fee increases should be controlled and fair. What is the guarantee that the school will not impose such increases on an annual basis?

It has been suggested that this is a natural "cull". Having overloaded the school with students to pay for the expansion, it is rumoured that the school does not need all the students. So it has increased fees in the hopes that some parents would remove their children. Is this education or commerce?

Name withheld upon request

Israel seals off Gaza after attack

(Continued from page 1)

horrified and shocked all of us obligates a renewed discussion on this subject of the double danger — our presence there and the presence of Gazans here," Mr. Rubinstein said.

Wielding two knives, Silmi rampaged along a street in a seedy commercial district near the central bus station, fatally stabbing Natan Azariya, a 20-year-old barber, and immigrant Gregory Abramov, 27, police said.

Seven of the nine wounded remained in the hospital with medium to light injuries, medical authorities said.

A mob waylaid the assailant and he was beaten with a metal pipe before a police vehicle arrived and hustled him away.

Gaza, home to 750,000 Palestinians, has been sealed in the past, most recently for a week in December as punishment for an ambush by Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas that killed three Israeli soldiers.

Half of Gaza's labour force works in Israel, and closures hit the impoverished area hard.

Fathi Al Shukaki, secretary-general of the Islamic Jihad, said in Damascus Monday's attack responded to Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians who belonged to his group and to Hamas, another fundamentalist organisation.

Mr. Shukaki said Silmi was an active member of the Islamic Jihad.

"The man who carried out the operation is Ziyad Salim Silmi who is an active member of the Islamic Jihad," Mr. Shukaki said.

He said the attack was part of the group's "resistance against the Zionist occupation" and pledged more attacks against

Israelis until all evictees are returned home.

"These operations will continue until all our brothers are returned home and until we regain all our usurped rights."

Asked whether Silmi was ordered by Islamic Jihad to carry out the attack, Mr. Shukaki said, "I confirm that Ziyad is a member of the Islamic Jihad. What does that mean?"

Mr. Shukaki denied the Israeli police statement that Silmi carried out the attack because he was angered by his failure to find work.

"Israel's claim that Ziyad acted because he was upset over not finding work is completely untrue," he said.

Mr. Shukaki said he learned details of the operation from members of his group inside the Israeli-occupied territories. He did not say how he made contact.

There are no direct communications links between Syria and Israel but several Damascus-based Palestinian groups contact their members in the West Bank and Gaza by fax through a third country.

France condemned the attack and said the fate of the Middle East peace talks hinged on both sides trying to defuse hatred in the occupied territories.

Foreign ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said the violence could not be justified and would not help any lasting solution of the Palestinian problem.

"Killing unarmed civilians shocks our conscience and deserves our condemnation," he told reporters.

"The current atmosphere in the occupied territories is detestable and it is urgent to improve it through peace gestures from both sides," Mr. Bernard said.

Milosevic's unchallenged reign

By Julijana Mojsilovic
The Associated Press

BELGRADE — Serb intellectuals increasingly warn of a darkness descending on their nation condemned by the world as instigator of wars in neighbouring Croatia and Bosnia.

Many of their countrymen seem moved by appeals to nationalism, and appear not to notice the destruction caused by the dream of a greater Serbia. Others see no point in opposing President Slobodan Milosevic and his allies.

"People here live in a parallel reality," said Dragan Popubic, a social psychologist and professor at Belgrade University. "It is not important what is really going on. What matters is how somebody authoritative interprets to them what is going on."

As Yugoslavia disintegrated, Mr. Milosevic demanded that all Serbs live in one state. He backed rebels who seized a third of Croatia and 70 per cent of Bosnia.

Almost two years of fighting has left 150,000 people dead or missing and 2 million refugees. The dream hasn't come true, and enthusiasm seems to be waning.

At home, Mr. Milosevic faces an estimated 40 per cent unemployment, monthly inflation of more than 200 per cent, a 50 per cent, a 50 per cent plus drop in industrial production and average wages of less than \$50 monthly. Serbia is the target of international trade sanctions because it is blamed for violence in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serbs in Croatia rebelled when that republic declared its independence from Yugoslavia. Violence resumed in Croatia last month when Croats launched an offensive to take back some territory lost to Serbs during the 1991 civil war.

Serbs in Bosnia began fighting a year ago, after that republic's Croats and Muslims declared independence.

"What can we do?" asked Velja Arsic, a worker at a state run Belgrade factory. "If we go onto the streets peacefully, they will let us stay there for ages. If a demonstration turns violent, they will crush us with police, army, tanks."

When workers get restive about low salaries or bad conditions, the government simply prints more money, he said.

Mr. Milosevic handily won elections in December. Despite allegations of widespread cheating, it is clear that many people voted for him and for even more extreme nationalists.

"Rather than seriously facing their frustration for losing wars and hopes, Serbs either choose not to believe what's happening to them — or blame others for it," Mr. Papadic said.



Historian Vasilije Krestic is among the many who embrace official propaganda that proclaim Serbs to be victims of an international conspiracy.

"The vilification of Serbs is a result of a German and Austrian conspiracy to win back what they lost in 1910 and 1945," Mr. Krestic declared.

"It will take ages before the majority of Serbs realise that their status ... depends on themselves and their rational behaviour towards the standards of the modern world," said Zoran Djindjic, a philosopher and a leader of the opposition Democratic Party.

Mr. Milosevic himself, deset with domestic problems, seems keen to at least appear the peacemaker.

In January 1992, he forced Croatia's Serbs to accept an international peace deal. This January, he pressed Bosnia's Serbs to attend peace talks.

Ecologists decry Mexico's slow pace in clearing pollution

By Christine Tierney
Reuters

MEXICO CITY — More than a decade since the government first drafted a plan to clean up air pollution in Mexico City, ecologists and residents despair that little has been done to solve the problem.

During the winter months, a thick brown haze hangs over the city, the product of three million vehicles and 30,000 factories sweeping contaminants into the air.

Ozone levels routinely climb over twice the maximum levels considered safe by the World Health Organisation, and on the worst day it is not unusual to see pedestrians holding handkerchiefs to their faces to filter the polluted air.

The government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has enacted a number of anti-pollution laws, but to little effect, environmentalists say, because the measures are inadequate, poorly enforced and superseded by economic concerns.

"We're not seeing any reduction in the contamination," said Homero Aridjis, a former ambassador to Switzerland and the Netherlands who formed the environmental lobby, El Grupo de Cien (the group of 100), in 1985.

The seemingly intractable problem is the result of many factors. Like many Third World cities, the Mexican capital has been a magnet for millions of impoverished people from small villages seeking a better life, with the result that its population has exploded from one million in the 1940s to more than 20 million today.

And as the primary centre of wealth in Mexico — a third of the nation's gross domestic product is generated here — the city has attracted thousands of manufacturing plants seeking nearby markets for their goods.

Mexico City's rapid growth has outpaced the public transport system so that highways are constantly clogged with cars. The fumes from the vehicles and plants, in turn, pour into air that, because the city is at an altitude of 2,417 metres, has a quarter less oxygen than at sea level and is trapped by surrounding mountains.

When air pollution levels climb to dangerous levels, Mexican authorities announce that factories must cut production to reduce emissions, but the orders apply to only 214 of the valley's 30,000 plants.

That, said Mr. Aridjis, is indicative of the insufficiency of the government's response and also its unwillingness to compromise Mexico's delicate economy by re-

ducing industrial output. "The government's position is that you cannot paralyse Mexico City's economy," he said.

The federal prosecutor for the protection of the environment, Santiago Onate, acknowledges that production cutbacks need to be expanded to more companies, but says the government is hindered by the legacy of past economic problems.

Many factories, strapped for cash, use outdated technology ill-equipped for pollution control. And Mexican workers are largely untrained in the art of maintaining what modern, clean-burning equipment there is, he said.

An economic crisis provoked by Mexico's huge foreign debt in the 1980s slowed industrial investment and dried up public funds that might have been spent on the environment.

The government finally acquired two helicopters last month to look for polluting factories, which has helped in enforcement of existing laws, Mr. Onate said. Although ozone, which is formed when unburned hydrocarbons react with sunlight, remains a problem, lead and sulphur dioxide emissions are down, he told Reuters.

"We're seeing a trend of greater compliance," he said.

Still, the heart of the problem is vehicles, which are blamed for 70 per cent of the city's pollution.

Inadequate public transport means that reliance on cars is heavy. Only last year were auto manufacturers required to install pollution control devices on cars, so the vast majority of those on the road emit a steady stream of pollutants.

In an attempt to cut the number of cars in circulation, the government requires motorists to leave their vehicles at home one day a week.

But progress in reducing car emissions has been slight, in part because of the public's unwillingness to give up their cars.

Many commuters confess to getting around restrictions either by buying a second car or by bribing police who stop them if they are violating the government's order.

"The transit police are very corrupt and they are the first to violate the law," Mr. Aridjis said.

The environmental leader said the pollution problem is exacerbated by Mexico's traditional workday of 12 hours, broken up by a four-hour siesta. Workers typically drive home and back during the siesta, clogging the roads in the afternoon in addition to the morning and evening rush hours.

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Christopher confident of April talks

(Continued from page 1)

message from Mr. Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and conducted talks on the Middle East peace process and the latest developments in the region.

Dr. Baz also met Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Sunday. Palestinians, who have not agreed to resume peace talks, want Mr. Rabin to accelerate the return of all the Palestinians he expelled to Lebanon in December and to promise not to use expulsions again.

Egypt has been involved in intense efforts to defuse the crisis over expulsions.

Mr. Rabin sounded a tough stance on the issue Sunday saying other states had "no right whatsoever" to condition further peace talks on Israel curbing its anti-Palestinians measures.

His speech to American Jewish leaders came while Dr. Baz was visiting to discuss the stalled peace talks.

Dr. Baz said after an hour-long meeting with Mr. Rabin that he gave him a message from Mr. Mubarak about peace talks, but would not elaborate.

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Agassi wins 19th career title

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (R) — Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi survived a strong upset bid by unheralded Marcos Ondruska of South Africa to win the final of the \$300,000 Scottsdale Tennis Championships 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 Sunday.

The second-seeded Agassi's victory ended a streak by the unseeded 230-year-old in which he upset seeds Francisco Clavet of Spain, American Brad Gilbert and Russian Andrei Chesnokov without losing a set.

"I did what I had to do out there today. There's no question my experience helped me," said Agassi, who added his second title of the year and 19th in 26 career finals to earn \$39,600.

Despite the victory, the eighth-ranked Agassi said he wasn't focusing on the number one ranking just yet. "I'm closer but in my mind I'm not there yet. If it comes along with hard work and results, I'll be ready for it."

The 22-year-old American, who is 12-1 and off to the quickest start of his seven-year career, quickly carried a one-set advantage by breaking service four times while losing his own twice.

Both players agreed the turning point of the two-hour 22-minute contest, played in cold, windy, drizzly conditions, came in the fourth game of the decisive set as Agassi survived five match points to go ahead 3-1.

"I felt in the third set, I pulled it together. I think that (the fourth game) was the turning point," said Agassi.

"That stage of the match was where a wind was blowing either way and I was against it on my serve. I knew getting by that game was going to be a big step in winning the match."

"Yeah, the fourth game was key," said Ondruska. "I wasn't able to convert there."

A break in the seventh game gave the American a 5-2 lead before Ondruska broke back. But at 5-3, Agassi sealed the victory, breaking for the eighth time in the match.

Ondruska, who collected \$23,350, paid tribute to Agassi's game.

"It was a very physical match and he put me under pressure," said Ondruska who after starting the week at number 67 will move into the top 50.

"Today, I wanted to take my game towards him, make him play around me," added Ondruska. "It has to do with our stubbornness that we both have good games from the baseline. But he came through strong in the third set."

Fernandez clinches Evert Cup

Top-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez nearly let a badly needed confidence builder get away from

her Sunday but saved two match points to beat fourth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa in the final of the \$375,000 Evert Cup.

Fernandez beat Coetzer 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (8-6) in two hours 42 minutes to win only her third career title despite having been ranked in the top 10 for the past three years.

"I haven't won a tournament in over a year. It's a good breakthrough," said the 21-year-old American, who lost to top-ranked Monica Seles in six of the 10 semifinals she reached in 1992.

"Hopefully, it will give me confidence to win more tournaments when I get to the semifinals and finals," said Fernandez, who earned \$75,000.

"I tried to block out that it was a final and just play the points," the seventh-ranked American



Mary Joe Fernandez

said.

Coetzer, who earned \$30,000, was also encouraged, pointing to the closeness of the match.

"Anybody who saw the match knows I could have won," Coetzer said. "It gives me confidence to know that I can beat the top players."

Jarryd wins Rotterdam title

Swedish wild card entry Anders Jarryd took his first singles title since 1990 with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Czech Karel Novacek in Sunday's final of the Men's World Indoor Tennis Tournament.

Jarryd, one of the top doubles players but ranked only 156 in the world in singles, collected the Rotterdam title for the first time following defeats in the 1986 and 1989 finals.

After winning his first singles title since the Vienna men's indoor tennis tournament in October 1990 and collecting the \$82,000 first prize, excited Jarryd said he would play more singles.

"This tournament has done more for my confidence than the win over Boris Becker (in the Australian Open this year)," said Jarryd, who has over 50 career doubles titles to his credit.

"I did not lose the match, Jarryd won it," said the Czech, successful in the Dubai Open earlier in the month.



Celtics' Reggie Lewis goes up for a reverse layup

Cavaliers knock off league-best Suns

PHOENIX (R) — The red-hot Cleveland Cavaliers outscored the Phoenix Suns 10-1 down the stretch to pull out a 101-94 victory and snap the home win streak of the National Basketball Association's best team at 19 games.

Larry Nance scored six of Cleveland's final 10 points as the Cavs extended their winning streak to seven games and swept both meetings from Phoenix this season. The Cavaliers beat the Suns 123-119 last month at Cleveland.

Nance, who finished with 21 points and 17 rebounds, converted two free throws with 1:42 remaining to tie the game at 93-93. His layup with 48 seconds left gave Cleveland the lead for good.

Charles Barkley recorded his second successive triple double with 27 points, 19 rebounds and 11 assists as the Suns' record dropped to 40-12, still the NBA's best.

Richard Dumas added 25 points for the Suns. At New Jersey, Drazen Petrovic scored 28 points and Derrick Coleman added 26 to lead the Nets to a 102-76 rout of the New York Knicks.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 16 points. In Orlando, David Robinson had 23 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists as the San Antonio Spurs snapped a three-game losing streak with a 94-90 win over the Magic.

Antoine Carr came off the bench to score 25 points in 23 minutes for the Spurs. Dale Ellis added 17 points and nine rebounds for San Antonio.

Nick Anderson scored 30 points to lead Orlando. Anderson had a career-high six three-pointers.

Rookie Shaquille O'Neal, plagued by a knee injury, had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Magic, which has lost its last two home games.

In Boston, Xavier McDaniel scored a season-high 30 points and Reggie Lewis had 28 as the Celtics defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 122-110.

Roberts Parish added 16 points for the Celtics, who have won three in a row.

Boston led 56-55 at halftime, but pulled away in the second half when the Blazers were without their leading scorer Clyde Drexler. Drexler had 22 points before leaving the game with 11:47 left in the third quarter due to a strained left hamstring. He did not return.

In Denver, Chris Jackson scored 28 points and Reggie Williams had 24 to lead the Nuggets to their 11th win in their last 12 home games, a 110-103 triumph over the Charlotte Hornets.

Alonzo Mourning scored 24 points and Kendall Gill added 16 for the Hornets, who have lost three in a row on the road.

Gascoigne sent off; Milan forge ahead

MILAN (R) — Paul Gascoigne's troubled debut season with Lazio plunged to its nadir Sunday when he was sent off in a heated Italian League match against Genoa which was also interrupted by a minor pitch invasion.

The former Tottenham player, whose fitness and form have been a constant worry for the Rome club, was given his marching orders 25 minutes into the second half for lashing out at Genoa's Mario Bortolazzi.

Lazio coach Dino Zoff said later on Italian radio he didn't think there was anything malicious in the incident.

"He didn't kick the player, there was just a bit of elbowing and Gascoigne pulled him over," Zoff said. "It was just one of those things."

The news for Gascoigne's team mates was much better. They overcame a two-goal deficit to beat Genoa 3-2 and move into third place behind Milan and Internazionale.

German Karlheinz Riedle scored twice and the league's leading scorer Giuseppe Signori hit Lazio's third from the penalty spot.

But the game had to be held up for three minutes after the final Lazio goal when up to a dozen Genoa fans invaded the pitch.

On a day which saw 29 goals in nine matches, Lazio beat Sampdoria with ridiculous ease, 4-0 at San Siro, to take their unbeaten run to 56 matches.

Jean-Pierre Papin continued his outstanding recent form with two goals, while high-priced recruit Gianluigi Lentini emerged from a form slump to score the other two.

A last-minute Fiorentina goal earned them a 2-2 draw against Internazionale and left Inter 10 points behind their Milan rivals in second place.

Barcelona score seven

Barcelona buried Sporting Gijon under an avalanche of seven goals Sunday in an action-packed game which saw four penalties and a Barcelona player sent off. Danish international Michael



Munich's Bruno Labbadia is dragged down to the ground by his Kaiserslautern opponent Jan Eriksson as Lothar Matthaus (right) of Munich looks on. Munich won 3-1 (AFP photo)

Laudrup, Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov and Julio Salinas scored two goals each, as Barcelona triumphed 7-2 over lowly Sporting, maintaining their pressure on league leaders Real Madrid.

Madrid, who beat Deportivo Coruna 2-1 Saturday, have the same number of points as Deportivo but a better goal difference. Barcelona are two points adrift but have a game in hand.

Earlier in the week Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff criticised his team's international stars, Stoichkov and Laudrup, for not playing well enough in recent matches.

The pair responded in style, scoring four goals between them, including a penalty apiece — two goals in the first half for Laudrup and two in the second for Stoichkov.

Barcelona went into the second half 3-0 up thanks to Laudrup's efforts and a goal from Aitor Beguiristain, also created by the omnipresent Dane.

Four more goals followed in the last 20 minutes of the match, with Salinas beating hapless Sporting goalkeeper Roberto Rodri in the 70th and 83rd minutes and Stoichkov scoring with a 79th-minute header and a penalty in the dying seconds.

goals as Sevilla beat Bilbao 3-1. Ignacio Conte scored twice for Sevilla, who are now sixth in the table.

However, Maradona's famous hand got him in trouble again.

Maradona, whose hand helped the ball into the net in the first of two goals he scored against England in the 1986 World Cup quarter-finals in Mexico, was booked for deliberate handball.

On a bitterly cold Sunday the games between Real Oviedo and Cadiz, and Real Burgos and Atletico Madrid had to be postponed because of heavy snow.

Benfica close gap on Porto

Striker Joao Pinto scored twice in Benfica's 2-0 away victory against Braga Sunday to bring his team within four points of Portuguese League leaders Porto.

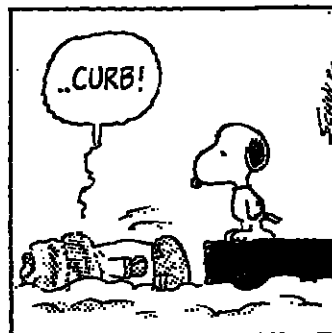
Porto, who beat Salgueiros 3-0 Saturday ahead of their European Cup encounter with AC Milan next Wednesday, head the table with 37 points.

Benfica are second, with Sporting Lisbon a further four points behind in third place after losing 3-1 away to Espinho.

Benfica winger Paulo Futre, the most expensive player in Portuguese footballing history, made a disappointing showing on his 27th birthday and was replaced by substitute Antonio Pacheco after 62 minutes.

Sporting's hopes of taking the title for the first time in 11 years look increasingly remote after their defeat by Espinho.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 2, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With the Moon Voide of Course early in the a.m. and squaring Mercury you will need to anticipate delays and changes in your schedule that could well prove frustrating all concerned. Don't let it through you or cause friction.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have every chance today to uncover the business data you wish in order to have more abundance and to quietly build accord with attachment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Attitudes of those you regard as outside associates come into the picture. They require careful analysis by you to handle most effectively.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can add any special charm, efficiency to your environment so whatever you have to do can be earlier to perform, tonight avoid an account wrangle.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be on the lookout for appealing recreations, make arrangements to enjoy them and tonight sidestep an outside associate who is a cold fish.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take some time out to improve and make your home more attractive and have the plumbing looked at while tonight avoid an unpleasant family matter.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Much activity is present in

communicating and corresponding with others which can be very much to your advantage, tonight use car on the highway or in motion.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You clearly see now how to increase the value and appearance of your possessions so get busy and do so after which think out a better budget.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are loaded with charm and magnetism and you can get most anything of a personal nature you go after, so do just that; tonight avoid an older depressing person.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Cagily approach an expert and you can get the news you wish about a condition that is important to you and spend much time with one who charms you.

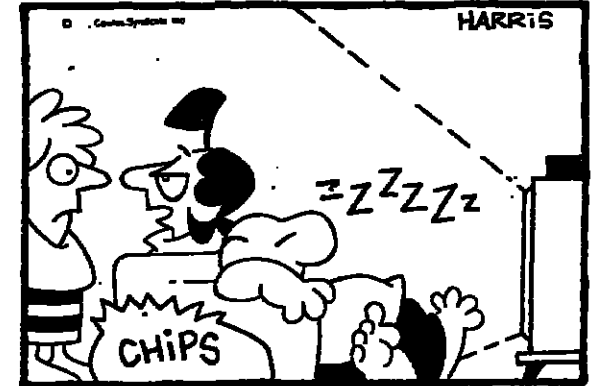
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Listen attentively to what an expert suggests as the best way for you to engage in and enjoy recreations you like most, tonight don't push your luck.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can find out exactly where you stand with influential persons who have it in their power to give you the chance to express your abilities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be alert to whatever advanced knowledge and information is available to you so your growth will be more rapid in your chosen fields and outlets.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"One night Stanley had insomnia and stayed awake 'til 9:30!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold

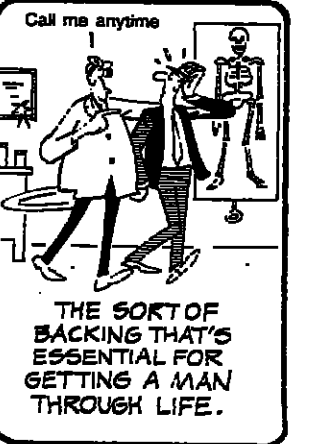
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ACNIP

HYLYS

ESSMYT

TIENIF

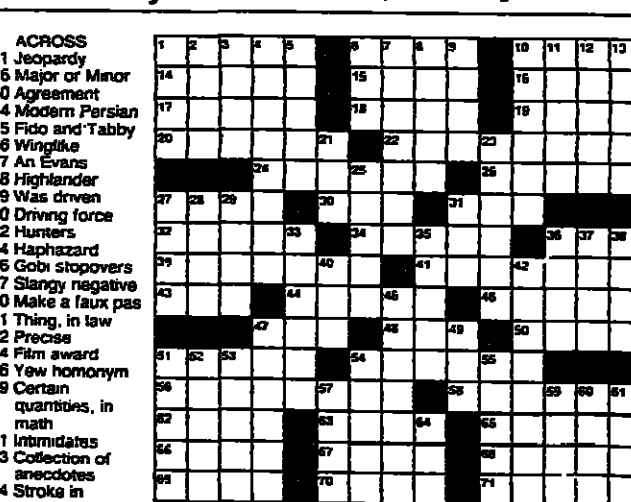


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRUSH PEACE SHREWD SNUGLY
Answer: What the politician became when his ghostwriter suddenly vanished — SPEECHLESS!

THE Daily Crossword by Hank Harrington



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ACROSS
1 Jeopardy
6 Major or Minor
10 Agreement
14 Modern Persian
15 Pico and Tabby
16 Wriggle
17 An Evans
18 Highlander
19 Was driven
20 Driving force
22 Hunters
24 Haphazard
26 Gosh stopovers
27 Slangy negative
30 Make a faux pas
31 Thing, in law
32 Precise
34 Film award
36 Yew homonym
38 Certain quantities, in math
41 Intimidates
43 Collection anecdotes
44 Stroke in willards
46 Aery occupant
47 Eye sore
48 Close denizen
50 Having multicolored patches
51 Sneaze word
54 Reaping tool
56 Suer
58 Canvas props
62 Salsa
63 "High —"
65 Narrow groove
66 Art deco name
67 Speed
68 Ordeal
69 Slip sideways
70 — facto
71 Ogiers

DOWN
1 Strick
2 Ireland
3 Folter
4 Roundabout
5 Climbing plant
6 And down
7 Clergyman
8 After dust or brain
9 Nick's dog
10 Hooded jackets
11 Bitter drug
12 Nucleus of trained personnel
13 Lock
14 Warner's dir.
15 Compel to act
16 Slang
17 European river
18 Voked beasts
19 Large rodent
21 "Norms —"
23 Small drum
25 Life taffy apples
26 Berra
27 Hieratic band
28 Pre-owned
29 Beam
30 Wall hanging
31 Circle portions
32 Dury
33 Fr. summer
34 Yarns
35 Dick of TV
36 Port-au-Prince
37 Neighbor
38 Rigger
39 Mingo et al.
40 Modern: prof.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAR HIRSCH
©1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

PICK THE LOSER

Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ 2
♥ A K 9
♦ A 10 8 5
♣ A J 9 6 5
WEST
♠ K Q J 10 8 5 3 2
♥ A
♦ K 9 8
♣ 7 2
EAST
♠ 10 2
♥ K 9 8 4 3 2
♦ K Q 10 4 3
SOUTH
♠ A 7 6 4
♥ Q J 8 7 6 5 4
♦ 8
♣ 7

The bidding:
West 3♦ North 4♦ East 5♦ South 6♦
Pass 6♦ Pass 6♦ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Here's a quiz with a difference. With best play and defense South, declarer at six hearts, can make exactly 12 tricks. What card scored the defensive trick, and how?

We don't know what the correct bid is with the South hand after North makes a takeout double of three spades. Five hearts is as good as any, and we have considerable admiration for a full-blooded six hearts.

There is just one problem with the hand — you have to take care of

two spade losers. Obviously, you intend ruffing two spades in dummy, but the danger is that somewhere along the line a defender will over-ruff with the ten of trumps and return a trump, in which case you will be stranded with a spade loser.

Regardless of which defender has the ten of hearts, you can prevent that easily enough by ruffing with nothing but high trumps. So win the ace of spades, ruff a spade with the king, cash the ace of clubs and diamonds to prevent West from discarding all of his cards in one of the minors and later ruffing away a winner, and return to hand by ruffing a minor with the queen of trumps.

Continue by ruffing another spade with the ace and a minor-suit card with the jack of trumps, setting up the ten of trumps as a trick for the defenders. But that's the only trick they get, as you ruff your last spade with dummy's nine, reducing your hand to nothing but trumps.

Take a bow if you selected the ten of hearts as your loser. But to earn a full accolade you had to admit that you lost it on power!

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 2/2/93	Tokyo Close Date 1/3/93
Sterling Pound	1.4270	1.4260
Deutsche Mark	1.6460	1.6535
Swiss Franc	1.5265	1.5310
French Franc	5.5880	5.6053**
Japanese Yen	118.20	118.43
European Currency Unit	1.1778	1.1740**

USD Per JTL
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates Date: 1/3/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.15	3.06	3.18	3.50
Sterling Pound	6.12	6.00	5.62	5.62
Deutsche Mark	8.50	8.12	7.62	7.12
Swiss Franc	5.37	5.31	5.06	4.75
French Franc	11.66	11.68	10.87	9.62
Japanese Yen	3.45	3.25	3.18	3.15
European Currency Unit	9.65	9.56	9.12	8.50

Interbank bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Priceless Metals Date: 1/3/1993

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	329.10	6.35	Silver	3.60	.080

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 1/3/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6910	0.6930
Sterling Pound	0.9835	0.9884
Deutsche Mark	0.4173	0.4194
Swiss Franc	0.4506	0.4529
French Franc	0.1231	0.1257
Japanese Yen	0.5828	0.5857
Dutch Guilder	0.3713	0.3732
Swedish Krona	0.0576	0.0580
Italian Lira	0.0436	0.0438
Belgian Franc	0.02027	0.02037

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 1/3/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8080	1.8240
Lebanese Lira	0.3890	0.4150
Saudi Riyal	0.1831	0.1850
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2230	2.2450
Qatari Riyal	0.1869	0.1890
Egyptian Pound	0.1940	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7590	1.7800
UAE Dirham	0.1869	0.1890
Greek Drachma	0.30850	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	0.13890	0.14050

Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	27/2/1993 Close	28/2/1993 Close
All-Share	191.09	191.04
Banking Sector	133.51	133.61
Insurance Sector	212.82	211.42
Industry Sector	270.63	270.68
Services Sector	251.55	250.09

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2555/60	Canadian dollar	1.6530/40
	1.6530/40	Deutsche marks	1.8570/80
	1.8570/80	Dutch guilders	1.5310/20
	33.96/34.00	Swiss francs	6.6060/110
	6.6060/110	Belgian francs	1584/1586
	118.20/25	French francs	7.8165/265
	7.8165/265	Italian lire	7.0400/500
	6.3420/520	Japanese yen	14330/40
	1.4330/40	Swedish crowns	
One sterling	\$328.20/328.70	Norwegian crowns	
One ounce of gold		Danish crowns	

Training course promotes Apple connectivity to various types of systems

Arab Business Machines, the Apple computer distributors in the Middle East, in cooperation with IBM Systems Co. has conducted its first training course in Enterprise Systems Division (ESD) in the Middle East where 20 ESD coordinators from eight Arab countries had come to participate in this course to get an intensive hands-on training showing Apple's connectivity solutions: Apple Talk Products, Enterprise-Wide Apple Talk Inter-networks, Apple's connectivity with DOS, Windows, and Novell networks. Apple's communication products such as Mac X 25 and Mac X 400 built along the OSI model, Enterprise Computing, UNIX Connectivity with TCP/IP/INFS, Xwindows clients). DEC hosts with Pathworks 1.1 for Macintosh, IBM host connectivity (SNA, Gateways, DAL for SQL 400). Client Server Architecture (Oracle, DAL server).m.

The course was conducted by Mr. Roger Curtis, manager, Enterprise Systems Division for the Middle East.

A log of 10 Apple Quadra and Apple Ili computers had been connected through Ethernet to a DEC MicroVaxII running Pathworks for Macintosh and an IBM AS400 on a Token Ring Network.

This course was part of Apple strategy in promoting the connectivity of its products to various types of systems.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

China resumes forced bond sales

PEKING (R) China is reverting to the forced sale of government bonds after a record issue last year flopped on the open market, Chinese financial sources said.

In a major blow to paramount leader Deng Xiaoping's economic reform programme, provincial governments and state-run enterprises will be forced to buy this year's bond issue worth 37 billion yuan (\$6.4 billion) starting Monday.

It is not clear whether ordinary workers will be made to purchase treasury bills by having their pay docked, a measure that aroused bitter resentment before it was phased out two years ago and replaced by an underwriting system.

"We have resumed compulsory sales. I don't know in what form but we've gone back to the old system," said one informed source in the securities industry.

The collapse of the underwriting system, started in 1991 and hailed at the time as a breakthrough in China's efforts to shift away from central planning, calls into question the government's ability to manage a smooth transition to a market economy.

Although the apparent reason is that the treasury bond market is in the doldrums, financial sources said the return to forced sales is partly a result of government bungling.

Last year's record issue of 41.1 billion yuan (\$7 billion) was mostly underwritten by a network of banks, credit houses and brokerages across the country.

But instead of marketing the issue to the public, the underwriters sat on the paper. When the bond market nosedived later in the year they were unable to sell and are now left stranded with at least half of the issue.

"When the government went back to them this year and asked them to take more, they said 'no way,'" one source said.

"It was a mess. Most of the bond departments at big banks have only a handful of staff. There were no salesmen. How did the government expect people to buy?" the source said.

Mr. Deng visited southern China last year to launch a campaign to speed the development of capitalist-style markets. Since then free markets in everything from bonds to grains and metals futures have popped up all over the country.

Rolling back a key reform on bond issuing is a reminder of the dangers that await China's other fledgling markets.

Chinese investors have been lured by the prospect of specu-

lar profits in stocks and property and have spurned treasury bills that barely keep pace with rising inflation. This year's five-year and three-year bonds carry coupons of 11 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

Inflation last year was six per cent nationwide but is now running at 20 per cent of higher in major cities.

In addition, the bond market was swamped last year with about 100 billion yuan (\$17.2 billion) worth of short-term commercial paper ranging in maturity from 11 months to three years and with attractive interest rates.

Turnover in 31 bonds listed on the Shanghai Securities Exchange accounted for only a tiny fraction of the \$4 billion turnover on the bourse in January.

Conservative central planners have refused to issue short-term treasury bills, or contemplate long-term paper that might appeal to wary investors.

Fear of rising inflation as money supply surges and expectations that banks will be forced to raise interest rates are likely further to depress the bond market this year. Banks have some \$200 billion of individual savings that threaten raging inflation if set loose.

To soak up excess savings, last year's government bond issue was more than double the 10 billion sold in 1991.

But plans to keep the amount rising are now in tatters, threatening important fiscal and monetary goals.

Beijing is relying on the bond market to cover its ballooning budget deficit. Last year's deficit was targeted at 20 billion yuan (\$3.4 billion), bloated by subsidies to loss-making state industries.

China wants to develop a bond market to use as a monetary lever in managing a modern economy. Outstanding state bonds are now worth just 100 billion yuan (\$17.2 billion), about four per cent of gross domestic product.

This year's issue will take place over two months. It was rushed to the market on expectations that good corporate results would boost the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock markets, the financial sources said.

Syrian oil output rises 15% in year

NICOSIA (R) — Syria added another 14.7 per cent in crude oil production between early 1992 and early 1993, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

Syria, an importer only a decade ago, is now a substantial crude exporter, having tripled its production since the mid-1980s. Oil exports bring in more than half of Syria's foreign exchange earnings, accounting for \$1.7 billion in 1991.

MEES reported output averaging around 565,500 barrels per day (b/d) in early 1993, compared with 493,000 b/d a year earlier and around 160,000 b/d in the early 1980s. This is projected to rise to 600,000 during the second half of 1994.

The industry newsletter also said natural gas production was expanding as part of a plan to meet domestic needs and to free up more oil for export. Plans for 1993 call for 55 per cent of the crude output to go abroad.

"The challenges facing Syria during the nineties are to maintain its current level of production by means of intensified recovery schemes, to persuade more oil companies to explore, and to find the necessary investments for the gas industry," MEES said.

It quoted Oil Minister Nadir Nabulsi as saying that oil companies which have pulled out have done so too quickly, partly because of the weak conditions in the oil market.

"You cannot judge a huge structure with oil potential — the companies would not have come if they were not encouraged by the geology of the area — by drilling only one or two wells," he said. Only in 35 to 36 per cent of the geological structures in Syria has there been drilling, he estimated.

The country is still virgin territory and has considerable potential, he said. Syria's proved recoverable oil reserves are already estimated at three billion barrels.

MEES said industry observers were suggesting that Syria should offer smaller tracts with more flexible terms, and allow seismic soundings before definite exploration commitment are signed.

Despite the country's hydrocarbon wealth, its capital Damascus faces power cuts of around four hours a day and the provinces up to six hours a day.

MEES said the availability of natural gas, which can be used in power plants, is no longer a problem.

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1. MERCEDES 200, 1985 in excellent condition, air-condition, metallic blue.
 2. CHEVROLET celebrity station wagon 1986 excellent condition, automatic, air condition.
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Egypt and World Bank sign accord

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and the World Bank have signed an agreement under which Cairo would get a \$150 million loan for moving forward in its privatisation process, officials said Monday.

"We have signed a technical agreement which will be ratified by the World Bank in a couple of weeks," one official told Reuters.

The agreement was signed Thursday by a senior World Bank delegation, headed by Alberto Musalem and Atef Obeid, Egyptian minister of cabinet affairs and administrative development, and Morris Makrammali, minister of international cooperation.

It followed a week of meetings in which the World Bank delegation reviewed Cairo's progress in privatising its vast, inefficient and ailing public sector.

Officials said the World Bank was satisfied with Egypt's move in putting on sale 18 state-owned companies, reforming its tariff system, and reorganising holding companies.

The Egyptian government last month advertised its biggest sale of state-owned assets, putting on the block four five-star hotels, tourist facilities and consumer product firms.

Officials and Western economists said the privatisation measures were enough to allow the World Bank to unlock the \$150 million frozen loan and give the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the go-ahead to sign a delayed agreement and start negotiating a new economic reform programme.

Egypt and the IMF have agreed to push back the start of the new reform programme by three months to May to give Cairo time to meet its targets on privatisation.

Completion of a first agreement was delayed in November when Egypt failed to meet targets for reducing its budget deficit and moved too slowly on the IMF's public sector reform plan.

Cairo agreed on a budget deficit target set by the IMF but lagged on privatisation.

Mr. Obeid, the minister in charge of the economic reforms, said both teams approved the guidelines for the privatisation process and discussed the government's plan for assets and companies to be put on sale in 1993-1994.

Companies and public investments worth 9.1 billion pounds (\$2.7 billion) would be offered in 1993-1994, Mr. Obeid said.

He said Egypt sold assets and public investments worth 1.2 billion pounds (\$360 million) in 1991. The equivalent of about three billion pounds (\$900 million) have been offered for sale in 1992-1993, he added.

The IMF and the World Bank signed agreements with Egypt in 1991 as part of a comprehensive economic reform programme which will win Egypt \$10 billion in debt forgiveness if it is successfully completed.

But both agencies have since complained of delays in the reforms and the World Bank partially froze a \$300 million structural adjustment loan last June because of its concern.

Egypt, struggling with unemployment and poverty, has resisted rapid change to avoid throwing large numbers of people out of work.

Analysts say insurers likely to be hard hit by New York blast

HARTFORD, Connecticut (R) — The World Trade Centre explosion was a "catastrophe" for the insurance industry which expects large claims from companies unable to conduct business while the twin towers are closed, industry analysts said Sunday.

Analysts in Hartford, site of most U.S. large insurance firms, said they cannot immediately estimate total damages until after the towers reopen because businesses continue to suffer losses, but the explosion was considered "a catastrophe."

Ronald Krauss of the American Insurance Association said, "we already know this is going to exceed the definition of a catastrophe, there is no question about that."

The lack of even basic services, such as electricity, will keep the businesses closed for some time as engineers examine the buildings for structural damage and repairs begin.

There will be more than \$5 million in claims and a large number of claimants is declared a catastrophe.

From the New York Mercan-

tile Exchange to coffee shops on the concourse level, hundreds of businesses were "knocked out" for commission and they will be seeking damages," said Cary Schneider of the Insurance Information Institute.

"The closest similar event we can think of is the Chicago downtown flooding in the spring of 1992," Mr. Schneider said.

"Property and other claims there totalled \$300 million, of which business interruption was the largest portion," he said.

While the Port Authority, owner and operator of the complex, is self-insured, it is likely that the quasi-government agency tried to spread its risk over several private companies, analysts said.

Mr. Schneider said the most common way to spread risk is through insurance companies that handle very large accounts, such as Lloyd's of London, the world's largest insurance market.

Stanley Brezenoff, executive director of the Port Authority, which owns and operates the World Trade Centre, said his agency has between \$400 million and \$600 million of insurance for the complex.

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TODAY AT

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel.: 634144

The Naked Gun 2½
The Smell of Fear

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel.: 699238

OH VIOLETS !!

Shows: 12:30, 3:40, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **Nabil Al Mashini Theatre** Tel.: 675571

For Technical Reasons
The Shows of the play:
TA'A WAQAIMAH
(PANDEMONIUM)

will stop till further notice

Nabil & Hisham's
AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155

New World Order

Plays continue daily at 9:00 p.m.
except Saturdays and Sundays
Happy Feast

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel.: 677420

Kevin Costner
and Whitney Houston
BODYGUARD

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 8:15, 10:30 p.m.
Free Car Parking

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel.: 699238

OH VIOLETS !!

Shows: 12:30, 3:40, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil & Hisham's
AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155

New World Order

Plays continue daily at 9:00 p.m.
except Saturdays and Sundays
Happy Feast

U.S. drops aid in east Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Three U.S. military transport planes parachuted crates of food and medicine over Bosnia early Monday in the first of the aid drops promised by Washington.

The Americans said the operation had gone well but declined to say where the supplies had been dropped. Radio operators in some of the besieged Muslim areas of east Bosnia expected to receive the aid said they had not yet heard of any parachute pallets landing.

In Zagreb, U.N. aid official Aleksei Lisinski said the aid was destined for Muslims encircled in the Cerška area. But a radio operator in Srebrenica, who said he was in touch with Cerška, reported that it was being attacked by Serbs and no relief loads had been found there.

Another operator named Edin in Gorazde, believed by Bosnians to be a prime site for the air drops, said: "We have no reports from anywhere around Gorazde of anyone finding any food parcels."

"The Americans should include some healing cream. We all have sore necks from looking up for them."

Other radio operators in the hilly east, where tens of thousands of Muslims are cut off by Bosnia's rebel Serbs, also reported no sightings of American supplies.

Earlier, U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Donald Lorange told a news conference in Germany, where the planes were based, that it was difficult to say how accurate the drops had been but the flight conditions had been good.

"I am hopeful and indeed confident that a number of people are better off than a few hours ago. We dropped supplies without regard to ethnic or religious persuasion," he said.

The three C-130 aircraft returned to Frankfurt's Rhein-Main Air Base after the six-hour mission during which they dropped 21 tonnes of supplies over Bosnia.

"Quite frankly it went very well," Gen. Lorange said. "There was no evidence of any attempt to interfere with the mission."

For security reasons he declined to give a date for the next mission but said that three to five C-130s would take part each time.

The planes, flying under the cover of night to minimise the risk of being fired at from the ground, dropped their loads within minutes of each other over the same area.

Military spokesmen said the three aircraft dropped a total of 30 crates of medicine and 20,736 military prepared meals.

U.S. planes scattered a million leaflets Saturday night warning forces in Bosnia not to shoot and to stay clear of the falling aid packages, weighing 704 kilograms, until they had landed safely.

Haili, a radio operator contacted in Muslim-held Srebrenica, said no aid had been found in his area. He had also heard from the Muslim areas of Cerška, Zepa and Konjevic Polje that relief pallets had not yet been spotted.

"Negative, negative" he said. "So far the information we have from the ground in Cerška is nothing has landed."

"We have men on the ground in all these places and the information is we have spotted nothing."

Haili said the people of Cerška were disappointed and desperate because they had found no aid. An operator named Fadil said in Zepa: "It has been a bit noisy here since 1800 last night with shelling and shooting but no air drops."

"The Zepa region has been searched thoroughly. There are no food parcels in our area."

In Sarajevo, Sir Donald Acheson, a special representative of the World Health Organisation, expressed concern about health in the Bosnian capital after 10 months of siege by the Serbs.

"The health of people in Sarajevo continues to deteriorate," he said. "People in Sarajevo have lost an average of 12 kilograms (just over 26 lb) since May. Another one to two kilograms (2.2 to 4.4 lb) and they'd be in trouble."

Fighting was reported to be continuing in Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia Monday.

The city's Muslim-controlled radio said there was sniper fire around the whole city, especially at bridges and road intersections, after shelling during the night.

Croatian Radio said the town of Zepanja, in eastern Croatia, came under sporadic artillery fire through the night from rebel Serbs across the nearby border with Bosnia.

Serbs also shelled areas around the Adriatic towns of Zadar and Sibenik, the radio said.

France welcomed Monday's U.S. air drop into Bosnia but said the mission must not eclipse humanitarian efforts by soldiers under U.N. control elsewhere in the country.

"It's a good thing the Americans have joined the Europeans in an affair that interests the whole world," Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told Europe 1 Radio.

Mr. Dumas said the air drop appeared successful in bringing aid to areas that could not be reached overland by U.N. convoys, which have been operating in the region for months.

"This operation must not overshadow what is happening elsewhere," Mr. Dumas said, citing aid flown in for months by French planes to the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

"It is good. Bravo, the Americans have come to lend a hand," Mr. Dumas said. "But let's not forget what the Europeans are doing."

Eleven French soldiers have been killed in former Yugoslavia. Mr. Dumas said an international peace plan that would divide Bosnia into 10 regions, drawn up by mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, would require 25-30,000 extra troops, including U.S., Polish and Russian soldiers, in the region.

The United States has so far been reluctant to send ground troops to former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Dumas said he hoped the plan, under discussion at the United Nations, would be implemented within weeks.

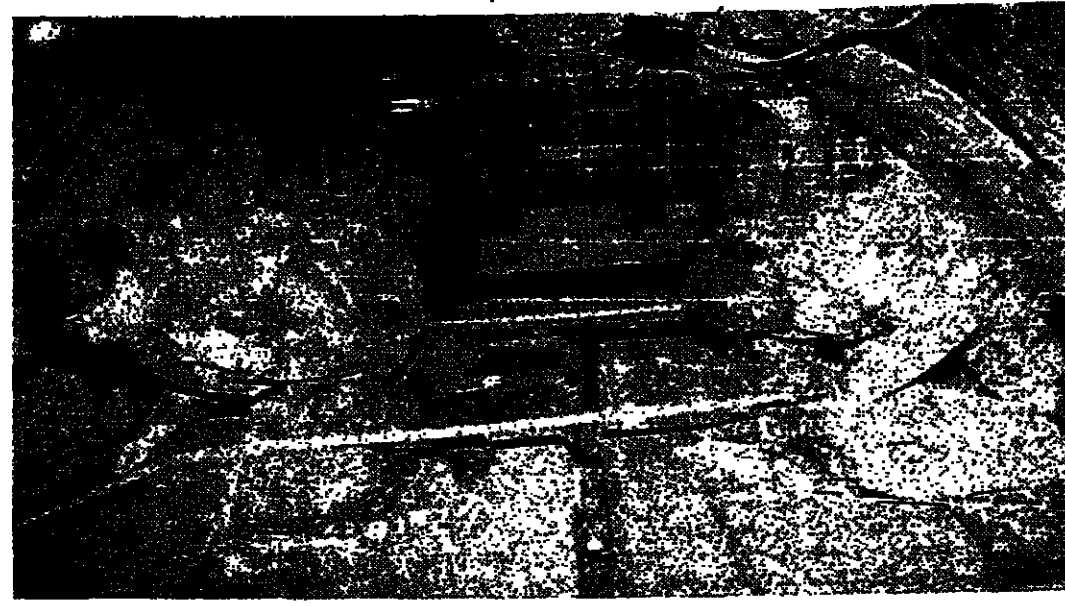
Meanwhile, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic accused Turkey Monday of "war whooping" over the Balkans.

"Statements that Turkey will form an empire from the Adriatic to the walls of China are threatening Serbian and Greek interests," Mr. Milosevic said in an interview with the daily newspaper Hristyev.

"The stand of the Turkish administration is unacceptable. Turkey is interfering in affairs that only interest us," he said. "We hear war whoops from here. These will not only be counterproductive but further harm our relations."

The Serbian leader said Turkey's continued support of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic would only harm the Muslim population of the former Yugoslavia.

"The Muslims of Bosnia played into the hands of those wanting to divide Yugoslavia," he said.



U.S. Air Force transport planes late Feb. 28 to drop the relief supplies over an undisclosed area in eastern Bosnia (AFP photo)

Right widens lead in French polls

PARIS (R) — An opinion poll released Sunday showed the right would increase their lead and win an unprecedented landslide victory in next month's general election in France.

A CSA poll published on the eve of the official opening of the campaign said the centre-right Union For France (UFF) alliance widened its lead to 38.5 per cent of the vote from 37 per cent three weeks ago and was poised to win up to 436 of the National Assembly's 555 seats for mainland France.

The poll left out the 22 seats for overseas territories.

It provided some comfort in misery for the ruling Socialists, showing they had regained a narrow lead over Ecologists.

But, with 19 per cent of the vote, the Socialist Party shaken by rising unemployment and beset by scandals was seen winning less than a quarter of its opponents' seats.

The Ecologist Coalition, long a marginal force, slipped behind the Socialists at 17 per cent. But they were tipped to win less than eight seats because of the first-past-the-post system which favours mainstream parties.

A centre-right leader warned

against complacency and said an overwhelming majority was vital for the centre-right to confront Socialist President Francois Mitterrand and start pushing reforms through in the two years to the presidential election.

"We must count on our voters, rather than wait for the opponents' voters to desert them," said Jacques Toubon, a leader of the main opposition Rally For the Republic (RPR) party.

A depressed economy and 10.5 per cent unemployment edging towards three million jobless dominated the pre-campaign and both sides voiced hopes for an improvement.

U.N.: Hanoi troops serving in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (AP) — U.N. officials charged Monday that three former Vietnamese soldiers have been serving with the Cambodian government's armed forces in a major violation of Cambodia's peace accord.

The accord, agreed to by Cambodia and 10 other nations, including Vietnam, stipulated that all Vietnamese soldiers withdraw from Cambodia and not return.

Hanoi has long said it had met that requirement when it official-

ly ended its 11-year occupation of Cambodia in 1989.

But U.N. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that months of investigations had revealed that three former Vietnamese soldiers were serving with government troops. One of them had recently retired.

Krishna Dasan, the U.N. mission's legal adviser, said the men failed to withdraw when Vietnam pulled out. He declined to give

details. The presence of the men undermines the credibility of both Vietnam and the Phnom Penh government, which have long denied accusations that Vietnamese soldiers were working for the government.

It could bolster the legitimacy of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group, which has insisted that thousands of Vietnamese soldiers remained behind after Hanoi withdrew.

Dynamite may have been used in New York blast — FBI

NEW YORK (R) — Up to 680 kilograms of dynamite driven into an underground garage in a truck, which could have caused the blast at the World Trade Center, a senior FBI official was quoted as saying Monday.

James Fox, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) New York office, told the New York Times the bomb apparently consisted of 225 kilograms to 680 kilograms of conventional dynamite available at many construction sites.

It seemed not to have been made of any tightly controlled military material like the plastic explosive often used by terrorists, he said.

Five people were killed Friday and more than 1,000 injured when the blast ripped through an underground parking garage at the office complex.

Detectives were analysing 55 telephone calls from people who had claimed responsibility for the bomb on behalf of numerous organisations, causes and individuals, New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told the New York Times.

The paper quoted law enforcement officials besides Mr. Fox as saying relatively simple explosives were used.

"It definitely was just dynamite, but a lot of it — which leads you to the conclusion that it was unsophisticated people," a senior law enforcement official told the paper.

Because of the amount of explosive and the size of the blast, investigators believe it was carried into the parking garage in a large car, van or small truck, Mr. Fox told the Times.

On Monday morning, workers were due to begin to return to the World Trade Center, New York's biggest office building.

Only a few thousand of the 55,000 people employed in the centre's seven buildings will actually be back at work, however.

The complex's twin 110-storey towers — a city landmark looming over Lower Manhattan —

which account for most of the centre's offices, will be closed for at least a week.

More than 500 construction workers laboured around the clock to stabilise the massive subterranean structures as financial companies scrambled to find ways to open for business Monday.

Major disruption in the financial markets was forestalled by a decision by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to reopen Building Four, which houses the city's five commodity exchanges. The exchanges estimated that only 2,500 workers would be on hand.

Mr. Fox told CNN television Sunday that the size of the blast made it unlikely a lone attacker was responsible.

In the television appearance — held hours before the Times interview — Mr. Fox said investigators were going to look "very closely" at the possibility it was a "terrorist incident."

He suggested perpetrators could include "drug dealers who are very upset with the U.S."

U.S. cult leader frees 8 children after shootout that killed 4 agents

WACO, Texas (R) — The leader of a religious cult was reported to have freed up to eight children from his group's compound, while FBI negotiators sought his surrender after a shootout Sunday that killed four federal agents.

CNN television said eight children were released after a local radio station played a tape of cult leader David Koresh speaking about his "Branch Davidian" group, which believes in free love and that the end of the world is near.

A Reuter correspondent saw two children being transported from the compound in a police van around midnight Sunday (0600 GMT Monday). Two police vans from Austin, Texas were seen entering the compound, joining an estimated 200 federal and local authorities surrounding the grounds.

Negotiations were continuing between a hostage negotiating team and Mr. Koresh, 33, who previously went by the name Vernon Howell and is said to believe he is Jesus Christ.

Mr. Koresh told CNN in a telephone interview Sunday night that he would release two children each time the local radio played the tape he dictated by

telephone to federal agents.

"I gave them a message for the radio. Every time they play the tape, I'll send two of the children out," Mr. Koresh told CNN.

"There's a lot of children here. I've had a lot of babies these last few years," he said.

Mr. Koresh and about 80 other members of the cult remained inside the fortified compound after agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) stormed the facility on Sunday morning in an attempt to arrest him on weapons charges.

Four ATF agents were killed and 14 wounded during the hour-long gun battle at the compound about 16 kilometres east of Waco.

Three cult members also came out of the compound Sunday night shooting, but agents killed one member, wounded another and arrested a third.

Mr. Koresh said he was shot several times by about 15 to 20 agents who rushed the building as he stood in a doorway in the compound said to hold vast supplies of weapons. "I was bawling, there's women and children in here. Let's talk," he said.

He said a two-year-old child was killed during the battle, but did not say whether he was the

child's father.

Two adults among the nearly 80 people said to be inside the compound were also shot but were not seriously wounded, Mr. Koresh said.

Bureau officials said they arranged a ceasefire with cult leaders after the gunfire stopped so they could remove dead or wounded agents from the compound known as Mount Carmel.

Mr. Koresh leads the Branch Davidians, a sect founded in 1933 by former members of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

The group believe Mr. Koresh is the "lamb" referred to in the Bible's Book of Revelations. They believe he is the only one who can open the so-called seven seals that will set loose catastrophic events that will end mankind and propel the group to heaven.

Mr. Koresh has been described by former cult members as a beer-drinking, guitar-playing, charismatic man with 15 wives.

Since 1991, police in the Los Angeles suburb of La Verne have been looking into allegations that he made girls as young as 12 years old into his "wives" at a commune-style house there, a police spokesman Bill Witzka said.

COLUMN

36 pianists selected for Van Cliburn Competition

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Thirty-six pianists from 17 countries have been selected to compete in the ninth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition later this year. The competition will be held on May 22 through June 6 in Fort Worth. It will mark the North American debut for 13 of the pianists. An international screening panel selected the musicians from a field of 260 applicants from 42 countries. Nine women and 27 men were chosen, ranging in age from 19 to 30. For the first time in competition history, there is no required repertoire, allowing the pianists to programme their recitals with-out restrictions on period or composer. During the two weeks of comprehensive performance before the 15-member competition jury, musicians will play a 50-minute solo recital in the preliminary round. The 12 semifinalists will play a 75-minute solo recital. The six finalists will perform two concerti of their choosing with the Fort Worth Chamber and Symphony Orchestras. Winners will be announced on June 6. In addition to cash awards and a recording opportunity, the top three medalists are offered two years of international concert tours and management. The first prize is valued in excess of \$200,000.

New tape titbits said to show Diana had affair

LONDON (R) — Britain's scandal-ridden royals faced a new love sensation Monday after an Australian television station said it would broadcast part of a tape suggesting Princess Diana had an extra-marital affair. Australia's ABC Network said it had obtained previously unpublished parts of a telephone conversation, known as the "squidgy" tape, allegedly between the wife of the heir to the British throne and her friend James Gilbey. Mick O'Donnell, the producer of the programme A Right Royal Affair which will broadcast the material Monday, told Reuters in Sydney the tape left little doubt that Princess Diana had a passionate relationship with Mr. Gilbey, not the platonic friendship that previous published extracts suggested. "Most people officially interpreted (the first excerpts) as a straight chat between friends," he said. "But the extra stuff leaves no doubt they were full-on." O'Donnell said in Sydney. If the programme lives up to its billing, it could plunge the royal family into a scandal rivaling the "Camillagate" affair over another tape which is widely regarded as showing Princess Diana's husband Prince Charles had an extra-marital liaison with his old friend Camille Parker Bowles.

Foreign royals will not attend Japan wedding

TOKYO (R) — Foreign royalty and heads of state will not be invited to the wedding of Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito later this year, news reports said Monday. Palace officials would not comment on the reports. The prince's marriage to Masako Owada, a former career diplomat, is widely expected to take place in late May or in June, but a final date has not yet been announced. The decision not to invite overseas guests was taken in line with historical precedent. No foreign royalty attended the wedding of Prince Naruhito's father Emperor Akihito or of his grandfather the late Emperor Hirohito, Kyodo News Agency said. Foreign guests will be limited to those with close ties to Japan's imperial family and the young couple, Kyodo quoted palace sources as saying.

Armed man robs bank of \$543,000

TOKYO (AP) — An armed man escaped with 64 million yen (\$543,000) in proceeds from bicycle races Sunday after talking his way into a bank by pretending to be investigating an electric power outage, police said. Electricity suddenly went out in the bank in Hoto, 700 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, and the man appeared at the door in a worker's uniform with white helmet, said a police official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The man brandished a rifle, took the money, locked employees in a vault and fled on foot, they said. The bank was not open for regular business, but four employees were counting proceeds from bicycle racing, a popular form of betting in Japan.

Angola reports heavy fighting as peace talks fail

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan Armed Forces reported heavy fighting in the central city of Huambo as efforts to arrange peace talks between the government and UNITA rebels fell apart Monday.

An armed forces statement said there had been intense UNITA bombardments of government positions in Huambo despite a U.N. call for a truce in the devastated central highlands city.

It accused UNITA troops of killing 25 people and raping two Brazilian nuns in one area. It said UNITA had received battalion of reinforcements from neighbouring Bia province.

Peace talks in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa collapsed when representatives of Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) failed to arrive for negotiations with the Luanda

government. The second round of talks started in January failed after four days of U.N. efforts to coax the rebels to the negotiating table.

Renewed civil war erupted after Mr. Savimbi rejected his defeat in the country's first multi-party elections, monitored by the United Nations, last September.

Fighting over the past few weeks has centred on the former UNITA stronghold of Huambo, once Angola's second city, where the government has reported 10,000 civilians killed.

The armed forces said a relief column composed mainly of paramilitary riot police was making slow but steady progress from the Atlantic Coast city of Benguela towards Huambo.

It said the column had retaken several parts of Benguela province from UNITA, including the

towns of Caibambo and Cabal, about 150 kilometres west of Huambo.

There had been a couple of small clashes between Ganda and Alto Catumbela about 25 kilometres further east on the road to Huambo. It did not say when the clashes took place.

In Luanda, the state-run newspaper Journal De Angola said Monday the health situation in the country was deteriorating rapidly as a result of the war.

Overcrowded hospitals lacked medicine.

One child was dying every two hours in Luanda's paediatric hospital, it said.

No further round of talks was planned and diplomats involved in attempts to end Angola's agony said the breakdown augured badly for any further efforts to end the civil war.

"It is over. We are leaving today," U.N. spokesman Joao Line Albuquerque told Reuters.

Angolan government officials who have waited since Friday for UNITA to arrive declined public comment until the U.N. organisers had issued a statement.

Privately they settled at being kept waiting and said they wanted U.S., Russian and Portuguese observers to use all possible sanctions against UNITA.

"If the talks have collapsed, someone has to take the blame. We have done everything the U.N. asked of us. It is time for the observers to take some action against UNITA," said one member of the Luanda delegation.

Members of the observer troika were gloomy. "I can't see what will happen next. But there won't be another round of Addis Ababa talks, I can assure you," said one.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish foreign minister visits Russia

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin flew to Moscow Monday for day-long talks focusing on the Azeri-Armenian and Bosnian conflicts, officials said. "The problems which have erupted in our region after the end of the cold war closely concern Turkey and Russia, two great countries of the region," Mr. Cetin said before his departure. "We believe Turkey and Russia carry joint responsibilities and can contribute to establishment of peace and stability in the region." Mr. Cetin will also discuss bilateral relations with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Ukraine rejects Russian peace role

KIEV (R) — Ukraine attacked Russian President Boris Yeltsin Monday over his appeal for a United Nations mandate to act as a "guarantor of peace" on the territory of the former Soviet Union. "Ukraine has never recognised and will never recognise that Ukrainian territory is a sphere of Russian special interest," Mikola Mikhailechenko, chief political advisor to President Leonid Kravchuk, told Reuters. "We will never agree to Russia once again becoming an elder brother or any other kind of brother. We want relations of equality," he added. President Yeltsin said Sunday Russia should be granted special powers on the territory of the former Soviet Union to stop ethnic conflicts. "The world community is increasingly coming to understand Russia's special responsibility in this difficult task," he told the influential centre-right Civic Union grouping. "I think the moment has come when responsible international organisations, including the United Nations, should grant Russia special powers as a guarantor of peace and stability in the region of the former Soviet Union."

Brazilian economy minister resigns

BRASILIA (R) — Brazilian Economy Minister Paulo Haddad resigned early Monday, Globo Television reported. Mr. Haddad submitted his resignation to President Itamar Franco at 1 a.m. (0400 GMT), and Mr. Franco accepted it. His interim replacement is Eliseu Resende, a former transportation minister, the television report said. Mr. Haddad's resignation came the same day as an International Monetary Fund (IMF) technical team was to arrive in Brazil to review the performance of Brazil's economy, burdened by a stubborn recession and a 1,100 per cent annual inflation rate. Mr. Franco has warned Mr. Haddad Saturday to hurry up with a plan to fight inflation or lose his job.

Lone candidate wins vote in Ingushetia

MOSCOW (AP) — An Afghan war hero, who was the sole candidate on the ballot was overwhelmingly elected president of the southern Russian Republic of Ingushetia, a news agency reported Monday. Maj.-Gen. Ruslan Aushev won 97 per cent of the vote Sunday in the newly formed republic nestled in the northern Caucasus Mountains, the Interfax News Agency reported quoting preliminary results. Magomet Suliyev, chief of administration for the republic, told Interfax the election was peaceful. The vote was vital for the predominantly Muslim republic to establish its political structures in the region that previously was joined with neighbouring Chechnya. Ingushetia also currently has a serious territorial dispute with North Ossetia, on its western border.

Bomb kills 2 at Peru Air Force base

LIMA (R) — A car bomb packed with at least 100 kilos of explosives blew up at an air force base Monday, killing two people and injuring at least 50 others, police and air force officials said. The bomb at Las Palmas Air Base in the Surco district of Lima seriously wounded five people and caused heavy damage to a recruiting centre, a nearby school and homes in the area, the officials said.

Philippine kidnap gang chief nabbed

MANILA (R) — Philippine authorities have captured the alleged chief of a police-backed kidnap gang, dealing a fresh blow to kidnappers preying on ethnic Chinese businessmen, officials said Monday. Eduardo Chang, a Filipino-Chinese trader described by police as the country's second most wanted man, was arrested by a team of police and soldiers Friday. On Feb. 17 police shot dead Alfredo De Leon, the country's most wanted criminal and head of the Red Scorpion group, a kidnap gang composed of former Communist rebels. On Sunday, the group's finance officer surrendered to Philippine President Fidel Ramos. "This is another big blow to them," Police Deputy Intelligence Chief Leo Garra told reporters, referring to Mr. Chang's capture. "The government has the momentum and it will be very hard for kidnappers to now operate around Manila."

Legendary dancer Ruby Keeler dies at 83

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Ruby Keeler, who danced her way through a string of classic film musicals that lifted audiences' spirits during the depression, died Sunday. She was 83 years old. A spokesman for the Riverside County Coroner's Office said Ms. Keeler died at her home in Rancho Mirage, California. In her 1933 debut in the film 42nd Street, Ms. Keeler played a chorus girl sent on stage to replace the ailing star with the director uttering the immortal line: "You're going out there a youngster, but you've got to come back a star." Tap dancing became her trademark, and Ms. Keeler went on to delight moviegoers with such popular Hollywood musicals as Gold-Diggers of 1933, Footlight Parade, Flirtation Walk, Dancer and Shipmate forever. Ms. Keeler made her last film in 1941, but she made a brief comeback at 61 to perform spirited tap numbers in a 1971 Broadway revival of the No. No., Nanette.

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